

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 13, 2021

- I. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mayor Woellner with the following attending:

Alderspersons: Paul Russell, Steve Hass, Rick Blake, Steve Osness, John Van Lieshout, Mike Rick, Mark Weix and Steve Sabatke

Other's present: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Mayor Derek Woellner, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Attorney Tom Hayden, City Clerk Bill Heideman, Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey, Police Chief Bennett, Fire Chief Klug, Enrichment Center Director Tammie Mrachek, Utility Operations Manager Gabe Steinagle, Park & Recreation Director Dan Wendorf, Facilities Maintenance Manager Nick Wszalek, Library Director Zellers and Merrill Productions personnel.

II. **Public Comment**

III. **Open Session Agenda Items:**

1. Consider request from Friends of Vincent Foundation – Haunted Sawmill for American Rescue Fund (City of Merrill) grant program for various projects.

Aldersperson Hass made a motion to deny the request from the Haunted Sawmill and future funding requests. Aldersperson Russell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

2. Consider addition of 23rd Police Officer position.

Aldersperson Hass made a motion to approve the addition of a 23rd police officer. Aldersperson Russell seconded and the motion carried. This will be sent to the common council.

3. Discuss budget goals and timeline

Discussion was held to have an all-day budget meeting. Aldersperson Sabatke said he was more in favor of two ½ day meetings. It was decided there would an all-day meeting on Friday, October 29th at 8 AM. A second meeting would be scheduled on Tuesday, November 19th at 5:30 PM.

Goals were discussed. Mayor Woellner stated his personal goal is a .5% increase.

IV. **Closed Session:**

1. The Committee may convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(3) for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to consider potential revisions to the Ambulance Service Contract currently in place and related matters.

Aldersperson Rick made a motion to convene in closed session. Aldersperson VanLieshout seconded the motion and the motion passed on a roll call vote 9-0.

V. **Adjournment**

The committee did not reconvene in open session to adjourn.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm City Clerk from the agenda and meeting notes from former City Clerk Bill Heideman.