

**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMON COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 12, 2023 MINUTES
Regular Meeting City Hall Council Chambers 7:00 p.m.**

- I. Call to Order:** Mayor Hass called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The following elected officials, department heads and residents were in attendance:

Elected Officials and Department Heads present: Mayor Hass, City Attorney Hayden, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Finance Director Unertl (remote), Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey, Library Director Ollhoff, Police Chief Bennett, Fire Chief Klug, Park & Recreation Director Wendorf, Facilities Maintenance Manager Wszalek and Enrichment Center Director Mrachek (remote).

Others in attendance: Pastor Paul Hohman, Clyde Nelson, Jennifer Schaefer, Yareldi Gutierrez, Jessica Gipp, Lora Badow, Ryan Martinovici, Sarah Sturm, Cheryl Skoug, Kate Gress, Roy Woller, Judy Woller, Al Curtis, Doug Curtis, Sandy Nienow, Diana Zimmerman, Linda Doerr, Susanna Juon-Gilk, Don Dunphy, Renea Frederick, Irene Mehlos, Elizabeth McCrank, Karen Nocco, Carol Wendorf, Erik Pfantz, Gene Bebel, Paul Gilk, Dora Gorski, Deana Groff, Cindi Christiansen, Sue Kunkel and Merrill Media Communications.

- II. Invocation** – Pastor Paul Hohman – New Testament Church gave the invocation.

- III. Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

- IV. Roll Call** was taken and the following alderperson's were in attendance:

Paul Russell – First District	Present
Michael “Gus” Caylor – Second District	Present
Nathan Meyer – Third District	Present
LaDonna Fermanich – Fourth District	Present
Dick Lupton – Fifth District	Present
Mike Rick - Sixth District	Present
Mark Weix – Seventh District	Present
Steve Sabatke – Eighth District	Present

- V. Proclamation – Chamber of Commerce month**

City Attorney Hayden read the proclamation. A picture was taken with Chamber members and Mayor Hass.

- VI. Public Comment –**

Cindi Christensen – 100 W. St. Paul St - representing the Fair Board expressed appreciation to the City of Merrill for support for the 2023 fair.

Clyde Nelson – 709 Cottage St – reiterated Cindi's comments and thanked the City for their support and help during the fair.

Al Curtis – Pine Crest Nursing Home – spoke Pine Crest – County owned property.

Doug Curtis – N5326 Rice Lane, Gleason – spoke on Pine Crest – County owned facility.

Dora Gorski – N5403 Bradley St, Gleason – spoke on Pine Crest – County owned facility.

Irene Mehlos – 700 Rio Grande, Merrill – spoke on Pine Crest – County owned facility.

VII. Minutes from previous meeting:

Aldersperson Meyer made a motion to approve the August 8th Common Council meeting minutes. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

VIII. Revenue & Expense Reports:

Aldersperson Russell made a motion to approve the August 2023 revenue and expense reports. Aldersperson Weix seconded and the motion carried.

IX. General Agenda Items:

1. Employee Years of Service Recognition:

Ross Witucki – 10 years – Fire Department

Mayor Hass congratulated Ross and thanked him for serving the Citizens of Merrill.

2. Consider a temporary class “B” picnic license for the Merrill Historical Society for September 23, 2023

– Aldersperson Sabatke motioned to approve the picnic license for the Merrill Historical Society for September 23, 2023 at the Expo Center, 303 N Sales Street in conjunction with GLCW – Down the Middle with Earl Hebner. Aldersperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

3. Discussion and consideration regarding rebidding 503 Wisconsin St – Mayor Hass explained the two bids that were received and the bidder’s decided not to move forward. He stated this property would be put out for bid for 2-weeks and brought back to the Common Council for final approval. Aldersperson Rick motioned to approve. Aldersperson Lupton seconded for discussion.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey stated this is in the best interest of the city to get the property back on the tax rolls with a no minimum bid. Aldersperson Rick stated he would like to see earnest money. PWDCE Akey said that may eliminate most bids but that is something to look at in the future. Following discussion, the motion carried.

X. Health & Safety:

1. Consider the change of agent for Kwik Trip Store #386 to Holly Hilgart – Aldersperson Meyer motioned to approve. Aldersperson Rick and the motion carried.

2. Consider a Class “B” (beer only) liquor license for SmokeHouse TX BBQ LLC, 722 E 2nd Street – Aldersperson Caylor motioned to approve. Aldersperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

XI. Parks & Recreation Commission:

1. Consider approval of the fee schedule and proposed changes – Aldersperson Rick motioned to approve. Aldersperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

XII. Place Committee Reports on file:

Aldersperson Russell motioned to place the committee reports on file. Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

XIII. Resolution:

City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution:

A Resolution authorizing application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) Wisconsin Assessment Monies (WAM) program for the property at 401 Kyes St. (“Property”) by the City of Merrill.

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill considers the Property to meet the definition of “brownfield” due to the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant that hinders the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill recognizes that the environmental assessment of brownfields is an important part of protecting Wisconsin’s resources; and

WHEREAS, a municipal resolution is required to apply for the WAM program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill will allow the DNR and its duly authorized representatives, agents or contractors access to inspect the Property and award records should the application be awarded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL ON THIS 12TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023:

Section 1: That an application may be submitted to the DNR for contractor services or community-managed funding under the WAM program.

Section 2: That the City of Merrill will comply with all state and federal rules and requirements of the WAM program.

Section 3: That the City Engineer/City Administrator is authorized to act on behalf of the City of Merrill to submit an application to the DNR for contractor services or community-managed funding under the WAM program, sign documents and take necessary action to comply with approved award activities.

Aldersperson Rick motioned to approve the Resolution. Aldersperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

XIV. Mayor’s Appointments:

Aldersperson Russell motioned to approve the appointment of Gary Hartwig to RDA and Jill Weber to the Transit Commission. Aldersperson Caylor seconded and the motion carried.

XV. Mayor’s Communications:

Mayor Hass read the following communications:

School is once again in session, please be mindful of the school zones.

The Fall Ride is this weekend, please watch for extra traffic.

September 13th and 20th – Family story time at the Library from 10:30 – 11:30

September 16 and 17th – Gun show at the Expo Center

September 17th – Agra Pavilion from 1-4pm the Holy Cross sisters are celebrating 100 years

September 23rd – Colorama Bike Tour and Great Lakes wrestling at the Expo Center

September 26th – Budget Committee of the Whole meeting and the audit presentation

September 28th – open house at the Enrichment Center from 2-6

XVI. Adjournment – Aldersperson Meyer made a motion to adjourn. Aldersperson Rick seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori L Anderson-Malm – City Clerk