



CITY OF MERRILL

CITY PLAN COMMISSION

MINUTES • TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:30 PM

I. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 5:36 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Ryan Schwartzman		Remote	
Ralph Sturm		Present	
Melissa Schroeder		Excused	
Robert Reimann		Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	
Steve Hass	Aldersperson - Second District	Present	
Kyle Gulke		Present	

Others in attendance (either in-person or remotely) included: City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, Alderman Rick Blake, Alderman Steve Sabatke, Elizabeth McCrank, Mike Caylor (arr. 6:00 P.M.), Rob Goetsch, Ashley Martell and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. Minutes of previous meeting(s):

1. Minutes of August 3, 2021 meeting

Motion (Hass/Reimann) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

III. Agenda items for consideration:

1. Oral report from Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel on Certified Survey Maps

Building Inspector Pagel reported that, since the last meeting, he has approved one Certified Survey Map. It was an extraterritorial map for land in the Town of Merrill.

2. Discussion of "Attractive Appearance" definition in Minimum Housing Code

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel explained that, historically, the City has not "paid attention" to the color of exterior paint on privately-owned buildings.

Alderman Hass suggested that that the current policy should continue. In his opinion, as long as buildings are adequately painted, the City should not concern itself with the color. Ryan Schwartzman agreed, stating that the City should not be dictating color schemes.

No action was taken.

3. Discussion of repurposing items listed in Junk Ordinance

Information was in the meeting packet.

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel reported that tires have become a popular material for repurposing.

After discussion, the commission seemed to agree that the current ordinance prohibiting the use of car parts for repurposing should remain in place and in effect.

It was noted that an appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals is currently available.

No action was taken.

IV. Recess

At 5:59 P.M., Mayor Woellner announced that a recess would be held until 6:00, the scheduled start time for the public hearing. At 6:00 P.M., he called the meeting back to order.

V. Public Hearing:

1. Public hearing on proposed City of Merrill Zoning Ordinance Sec. 113-317, related to accessory uses or structures.

Information was in the meeting packet.

City Attorney Hayden read the public hearing notice.

Motion (Hass/Sturm) to open the public hearing. Carried.

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel clarified the ordinance as it relates to trailers and shipping containers.

Rob Goetsch asked for and received clarification on the ordinance.

Motion (Hass/Reimann) to close the public hearing. Carried.

Motion (Hass/Schwartzman) to recommend approving the ordinance.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 9/14/2021 6:00 PM
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VI. Joint Session:

1. Joint session with Historic Preservation Committee to consider amendments to the Historic Preservation ordinance. At a meeting on August 10th, 2021, the Common Council referred this to the Historic Preservation Committee/City Plan Commission.

Discussion was held on the proposed ordinance that has had input from both the City Plan Commission and the Historic Preservation Committee. Alderman Hass stated that he was not in favor of exempting the fee when Common Council members submit nominations for historic sites. Alderman Sabatke agreed and stated that, in his opinion, only the property owners should be exempt from the fee when they submit nominations.

Elizabeth McCrank expressed concerns related to “absentee” property owners who allow historic properties to fall into disrepair. In her opinion, the ordinance needs more work before it is ready for Common Council consideration.

Mike Caylor suggested the ordinance could be referred to the Historic Preservation Committee in order to make minor modifications.

Motion (Hass/Sturm) to refer the ordinance to the Historic Preservation Committee. Motion to refer carried 9-0 on roll call vote.

VII. Public Comment Period

Alderman Hass thanked the Historic Preservation Committee members that attended the joint session portion of the meeting.

VIII. Establish date, time and location of next meeting

The next meeting will be at the call of the Chairperson.

IX. Adjournment

Motion (Hass/Sturm) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:25 P.M.