

**CITY OF MERRILL  
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024 MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING    CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS    5:15 PM**

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Weix at 5:15 PM  
Present: Alderperson Weix Jr., Alderperson Caylor, Alderperson Rick  
Excused: Norb "Nubs" Ashbeck

Others in attendance: Mayor Hass, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Social Media Specialist Savall, Andrew Caylor, Mark Seaman, Jay Tlusty and Merrill Community Media

- II. Public Comment:** Mark Weix - 1007 Pine Bluff Avenue - Spoke about safety concerns on O'Day Street. He stated this is an active neighborhood with walkers both young and old. Safety is the number 1 concern without a sidewalk on this street. He informed the committee that doctors from Marshfield Clinic would no longer go to Bell Tower Residences for residents. Instead, residents will need to be taken to the Marshfield Clinic. He stated the second reason for a sidewalk is accessibility to Riverside Park and the Merrill Golf Course. Both bring a lot of traffic and a sidewalk would be beneficial.

Kris McGarigle - Administrator at Bell Tower Residence - provided a letter distributed to the committee members. Mr. Weix read the letter that expressed safety concerns regarding the lack of a sidewalk on O'Day Street. The letter will be put in the public record.

Mark Seaman - 1304 Lark Street - Spoke about the sidewalk concern. He stated numerous people use O'Day Street to gain access to Riverside Park or Golf Course. He has noticed some drivers do not follow the speed limit and are inattentive. Sun glare, at certain times of the day, causes visibility issues for drivers and pedestrians. A sidewalk would help, so pedestrians do not need to walk in the street.

Jay Tlusty - 1306 Lark Street - Spoke on the sidewalk issue. He stated elderly people are walking, using walkers or wheelchairs on O'Day Street. There is year-round activity with pedestrians on O'Day Street. He continued stating, O'Day Street is very busy, especially during the golf season. He pointed out to the committee that there are 9 driveways and 3 roads that feed into O'Day Street. He is concerned for citizens safety and hopes a sidewalk will be constructed on one side of O'Day Street.

- III. Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

1. **Consider placing the minutes from the January 22nd meeting on file.**  
- Alderperson Caylor made a motion to place the minutes from the January 22nd meeting on file. Chair Weix seconded and the motion carried.

#### **IV. Nuisance Complaints and Vouchers:**

1. **Nuisance Complaints** - Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel presented the nuisance complaints that were in the packet.
2. **Discuss and consider approving the vouchers** - Alderperson Caylor made a motion to approve the vouchers. Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded the motion carried.

#### **V. General Agenda Items for Consideration::**

1. **Consider a temporary Class "B" picnic license for the Lincoln County Rodeo Association Inc., to sell fermented malt beverages on June 7, 8, and 9, 2024 at the Merrill Festival Grounds in conjunction with the Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo.** - Alderperson Rick made a motion to approve the temporary Class "B" picnic license for the Lincoln County Rodeo Association Inc. for June 7, 8, and 9, 2024 in conjunction with the Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo. Alderperson Caylor seconded and the motion carried.
2. **Consider a temporary "Class B" license to sell wine for the Knights of Columbus on April 6, 2024, at the Expo Center in conjunction with a Knights of Columbus Fund Raiser.** - This license was withdrawn - no action was needed.
3. **Consider a temporary Class "B"/"Class B" picnic license for the Merrill Chamber of Commerce to sell fermented malt beverages and wine on May 18, 2024, at the Festival Grounds in conjunction with Merrill's Food Truck-a-Palooza.** - Alderperson Caylor made a motion to approve the Class "B"/"Class B" picnic license for the Merrill Chamber of Commerce on May 18, 2024, in conjunction with Merrill's Food Truck-a-Palooza. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.
4. **Discussion on a sidewalk from Martin Street to Tee Lane; north side of O'Day Street due to safety issues for pedestrians and bikers along a busy street.** - Alderperson Rick made a motion to forward this to the Board of Public Works with no recommendation. Alderperson Caylor seconded for discussion and the motion carried. The committee discussed a sidewalk from Martin Street to Tee Lane on the north side of O'Day Street. Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey answered questions from the committee with the following information given; sidewalks are charged to landowners for special assessment. The approximate cost is \$40/foot, which would be approximately \$52,000 in concrete costs. This was not bid last year since no one petitioned for this issue. Due to the terrain, incline and costs that would be incurred, a sidewalk would only go to Tee Lane and not down to Riverside Park. This project would be bid out as a separate project by outside

contractors. Following further discussion, the committee approved the motion to forward this to the Board of Public Works with no recommendation.

**VI. Monthly Reports:**

1. **Monthly Report - Fire Chief Klug** - The report was included in the packet. Chief Klug highlighted some items from the report. He wanted to thank the Lions Club for the \$3,000 donation for a thermal camera.
2. **Monthly Report - Police Chief Bennett** - The report was in the packet. Chief Bennett highlighted a few things. He stated the new squad is in service and the old Tahoe will be on the Wisconsin Auction site in a few weeks. He answered questions from the committee.
3. **Monthly Report - Lincoln County Humane Society** - The report was included in the packet.
4. **Consider placing monthly reports on file** - Alderperson Caylor made a motion to place the monthly reports on file. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

**VII. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Monday, March 25 at 5:15 PM. :**

**VIII. Adjournment:** Alderperson Rick made a motion to adjourn. Alderperson Caylor seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by City Clerk Anderson-Malm