

130890

**City of Merrill  
Committee of the Whole  
Tuesday, July 30, 2013 at 5:30 P.M.  
City Hall Common Council Chambers  
1004 East First Street**

Committee of the Whole members present (7 of 9): Mayor Bill Bialecki, Alderman Chris Malm (First District), Alderman Steve Hass (Second District), Alderman Ryan Schwartzman (Third District), Alderman John Burgener (Fifth District), Alderman Rob Norton (Seventh District) and Alderwoman Anne Caylor (Eighth District). Alderwoman Kandy Peterson (Fourth District) and Alderman Dave Sukow (Sixth District) had excused absences.

Other attendees: City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, City Hall Maintenance Supervisor Ramona Pampuch, Fire Chief Dave Savone, Treasurer/Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Lincoln County Economic Development Director Jack Sroka, Brian Arndorfer, Duane Pfister and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A student was in attendance to videotape the meeting for the Cable Access Channel.

**Call to order**

Mayor Bialecki called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

**Update on Tax Increment District (TID) plans, schedule Common Council meeting**

Information was in the meeting packet. Finance Director/Treasurer/Comptroller/RDA Secretary Unertl reviewed proposed adjustments to the following Tax Increment Districts: TID #3, TID #4, TID #5, TID #6, TID #7, TID #8 and TID #9 (a new "blight" TID). These proposed adjustments are currently being prepared for Redevelopment Authority and Common Council review.

No action was taken.

A special Common Council meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. The purpose of the meeting would be to consider various TID boundary and plan amendments.

**Report and discussion on employee compensation**

Information was in the meeting packet.

It has been suggested that, in light of the fact that the Finance Director is no longer responsible for the Information Technology Department, the salary for the Finance Director position should be reduced. City Administrator Johnson recommended that the salary remain the same. Alderman Hass noted that, in the past, in cases when job responsibilities were reduced, compensation was also reduced.

City Administrator Johnson distributed information on current City positions and compensations. He also stated that he is proposing two new part-time (20/hour per week) positions. One would be an office support position in the Fire Department and the other would be an office support position in the Street Department.

Alderman Norton stated that he would be in favor of comparing City salaries with other municipalities that are similar to Merrill and direct City Administrator Johnson to submit this information to a future Committee of the Whole meeting. City Administrator Johnson responded that he would gather this comparative information as soon as possible.

No action taken.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Motion to convene in closed session**

Motion (Hass/Schwartzman) to convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public property, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, pertaining to the demolition bid for the Lincoln House, 120 South Mill Street and pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public property, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to consider property title transfer to City of Merrill/Redevelopment Authority to facilitate demolition and site redevelopment in TID #8 (West Main Street) and pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public property, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to consider purchase of property in TID #5 for regional stormwater drainage and potential TID #8 development incentives to facilitate redevelopment of a vacant manufacturing site located in TID #8. Carried 4-2 on roll call vote. Voting No – Alderman Malm and Alderman Norton.

**Closed session #3 – Potential City purchase, property development in TID #8**

The closed session portion of the meeting began at 6:08 P.M. Attending: Bialecki, Malm, Hass, Schwartzman, Burgener, Norton, Caylor, Johnson, Hayden, Unertl, Sroka, Arndorfer and Heideman.

Mayor Bialecki requested that the order of considering the closed session items be changed and that the third closed session listed on the agenda be considered first. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Lincoln County Economic Development Director Sroka and Brian Arndorfer gave a presentation on a potential development opportunity in TID #8.

No action was taken.

At the conclusion of this closed session, Lincoln County Economic Development Director Sroka and Brian Arndorfer departed.

**Closed session #1 – Discuss bid for demolition of Lincoln House**

This closed session began at 7:18 P.M. The minutes of this closed session will be filed separately and confidentially. No action was taken.

**Closed session #2 – Consider potential transfer of property in TID #8 to City**

This closed session began at 7:28 P.M. The minutes of this closed session will be filed separately and confidentially. No action was taken.

**Closed session #4 – Strategy for upcoming police & fire union negotiations**

This closed session began at 7:34 P.M. The minutes of this closed session will be filed separately and confidentially. No action was taken.

**Adjournment**

Motion (Caylor/Hass) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned (from closed session) at 7:52 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC  
City Clerk