

**City of Merrill
Committee of the Whole
Strategic Planning Session
Thursday, March 27, 2014 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), Alderwoman Kandy Peterson (Fourth District), Alderman Dave Sukow (Sixth District) and Alderman Rob Norton (Seventh District). Alderman John Burgener (Fifth District) and Alderwoman Anne Caylor (Eighth District) had excused absences.

Other attendees included: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Enrichment Center Director Jane Deau, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Utility Superintendent Kim Kriewald, Street Commissioner Richard Lupton, Police Chief Ken Neff, Fire Chief Dave Savone, Library Director Stacy Stevens, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Hall Maintenance Supervisor Ramona Vanderkam, Park and Recreation Director Dan Wendorf, Greg Hartwig, Judy Woller, Michael Caylor Jr., Lincoln County Economic Development Director Susan Ryman, Lincoln County Community Development Educator Art Lersch 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.

Motion to convene in closed session

Motion (Schwartzman/Peterson) to convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of 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 negotiation of the rural fire contracts. Motion was tied 3-3 on roll call vote. Voting Yes – Alderman Schwartzman, Alderman Peterson and Alderman Sukow. Mayor Bialecki broke the tie by voting Yes. Therefore, the committee convened in closed session.

Closed session

Convened in closed session at 5:33 P.M. Attending: Malm, Hass, Schwartzman, Peterson, Sukow, Norton, Bialecki, Johnson, Hayden, Unertl, Savone and Heideman.

The closed session minutes will be filed separately and confidentially.

Motion to reconvene in open session

Motion (Schwartzman/Peterson) to reconvene in open session. Carried.
Reconvened in open session at 6:48 P.M.

Strategic long-term planning session/discussion #3 (facilitated by Art Lersch)

Mayor Bialecki turned the meeting over to Lincoln County Community Development Educator Lersch.

The Session #2 Report was reviewed. There were no changes or corrections to the report.

Lincoln County Community Development Educator Lersch distributed information prepared by various City department heads. The information was related to services currently being provided by the City of Merrill government. Some departments have not yet submitted reports, those reports will be distributed as they are received. Lincoln County Community Development Educator Lersch requested that participants review the reports prior to the next meeting.

A “SOAR” analysis of city government was continued from the previous meeting. Opportunities, aspirations and results were discussed.

Information on core values was distributed. Lincoln County Community Development Educator Lersch asked that participants think about core values and success, and how to convey the message on both. He also requested that participants begin to think about a City government mission statement, as that will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next strategic planning meeting will be held in the City Hall Common Council Chambers, on April 17th, beginning at 5:30 P.M. A meeting was also tentatively scheduled for May 7th. That meeting will also begin at 5:30 P.M.

Note: After the meeting, Lincoln County Community Development Educator Lersch prepared and submitted a meeting report. That report will be filed with these minutes and is also available on the City website.

Public Comment

Alderman Sukow expressed disappointment that only one “new” candidate seeking office in the April 1st election was in attendance.

Adjournment

Motion (Hass/Schwartzman) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk