

**City of Merrill
Committee of the Whole
Strategic Planning Session
Thursday, April 17, 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 – left at 6:45 P.M.), Alderman Ryan Schwartzman (Third District), Alderman John Burgener (Fifth District), Alderman Dave Sukow (Sixth District), Alderman Rob Norton (Seventh District) and Alderman Tim Meehean (Eighth District), Alderman Pete Lokemoen (Second District) and Alderwoman Kandy Peterson (Fourth 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, Judy Woller, Gene Bebal (arr. 5:42), Lincoln County Community Development Educator Art Lersch and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

Call to order

Mayor Bialecki called the meeting to order at 5:33 P.M. He then turned the meeting over to Lincoln County Community Development Educator Lersch.

Strategic long-term planning session/discussion #4 (facilitated by Art Lersch)

The Session #3 Report was reviewed. There were no changes or corrections to the report.

Lincoln County Community Development Educator Lersch explained that the primary goal of this meeting would be to develop a mission statement for City government.

Discussion on City departments and services was continued from the previous meeting. The report on services provided by the Enrichment Center was distributed. Lincoln County Community Development Educator Lersch reminded department heads that, if they have not already submitted a list of services to him, they should do so as soon as possible.

At 6:06 P.M., the attendees were divided into two separate groups. Both groups worked on developing.

The two groups then reassembled as one and discussed the mission statement that both group drafted. Based on those, the entire group created the following mission statement for City of Merrill government.

<p>“The mission of the City of Merrill government is to provide high quality services in an innovative, consistent, and efficient manner.”</p>
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Discussion then began on identifying strategic issues. Growing the tax base, jobs and economic development were cited as important issues. Lincoln County Community Development Educator Lersch urged that all participants continue contemplating strategic planning issues, in preparation for the next meeting.

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

None.

Adjournment

Motion (Burgener/Norton) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk