

**City of Merrill  
Committee of the Whole  
Strategic Planning Session  
Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 5:30 P.M.  
City Hall Common Council Chambers  
1004 East First Street**

Committee of the Whole members present (8 of 9): Mayor Bill Bialecki, Alderman Chris Malm (First District), Alderman Peter Lokemoen (Second District), Alderman Ryan Schwartzman (Third District), Alderwoman Kandy Peterson (Fourth District), Alderman John Burgener (Fifth District – left at 6:45), Alderman Dave Sukow (Sixth District – arrived at 6:54) and Alderman Rob Norton (Seventh District). Alderman Tim Meehean (Eighth District) had an excused absence.

Other attendees included: City Administrator Dave Johnson (arr. 5:45), Enrichment Center Director Jane Deau, Transit Director Rich Grenfell, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Utility Superintendent Kim Kriewald, Street Commissioner Richard Lupton, Police Chief Ken Neff, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, Fire Chief Dave Savone, Library Director Stacy Stevens, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Hall Maintenance Supervisor Ramona Vanderkam, Park and Recreation Director Dan Wendorf (arr. 6:53), Steve Hass, Judy Woller (arr. 6:03), Gene Bebel, Lincoln County Community Development Educator Art Lersch and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

**Call to order**

Mayor Bialecki called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. He then turned the meeting over to Lincoln County Community Development Educator Lersch.

**Strategic long-term planning session/discussion #5 (facilitated by Art Lersch)**

Lincoln County Community Development Educator Lersch reported that there are three strategic planning meetings remaining. At this time, those meetings are scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>, June 19<sup>th</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Session #4 Report was reviewed. There were no changes or corrections to the report.

The strategic issues that were introduced at the previous meeting were reviewed. The following issues were added to the list, by the following people:

Workforce Retention & Recruitment	Finance Director Unertl
Highway 51 Corridor	Gene Bebel
Infrastructure	Finance Director Unertl),
Time-Sensitive Programs	City Administrator Johnson
Blight Elimination	Mayor Bialecki
Drugs & Alcohol	Finance Director Unertl

All strategic issues were then prioritized. Discussion was held on what the City can do to address these issues.

The importance of tax base was discussed. It was agreed that, in the next five years, there has to be a strong commitment to increasing the City tax base.

Alderman Lokemoen mentioned that there is value to strategic planning, but it could become meaningless if sufficient cash is not available.

*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 (Norton/Peterson) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC  
City Clerk