



CITY OF MERRILL
PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES • TUESDAY MAY 24, 2016

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 PM

I. Call to Order

Alderman Schwartzman called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Ryan Schwartzman	Aldersperson - Third District	Present	
Tim Meehean	Aldersperson - Eighth District	Present	
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Present	

Other attendees included: Mayor Bill Bialecki, City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Police Chief Ken Neff, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Library Director Stacy Stevens, Street Superintendent Dustin Bonack, Alderwoman Mary Ball, Alderman Rob Norton, Matt Waid, Robert Caylor, Kortney Pike, Roger Drewek, Gene Bebel, J. Michael Nolan, Barb Nolan, Jim Wedemeyer, Sue Weith, Eric Malm, Jim Richardson, Don Swan, Mike Grunewald, Erik Pfantz and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

II. Vouchers:

1. Vouchers for April, 2016

City staff answered questions on the vouchers.

Motion (Meehean/Schwartzman) to place on file.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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III. Agenda items for consideration:

1. Discussion concerning Lead Pay at the Street Department.

This was originally discussed at the October 28th, 2014 Personnel and Finance Committee meeting. Kortney Pike has requested that the issue be revisited.

City Administrator Johnson reported that Carlson Dettmann Consulting, the firm that conducted the recent compensation study, had recommended that these “lead” positions be removed from the City’s organizational charts.

Kortney Pike responded that, in his opinion, when the working foreman is absent and another employee steps up and assumes that responsibility, they should be compensated accordingly.

City Administrator Johnson noted that the current policy does include this provision, but it is for “long-term” cases when a supervisory person is absent for an extended period of time and another employee assumes that responsibility.

After discussion, it was decided that discussion should be continued at the next meeting. A copy of the current policy will be included in that meeting packet.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO P & F	Next: 6/28/2016 5:15 PM
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2. Discussion and potential recommendation(s) on request from TowerCo to buy out their lease for the new cell tower parcel on the former Anson Gilkey property.

City Administrator Johnson reported that TowerCo has originally offered \$235,000 for a buyout, but are now willing to pay \$261,000. City Administrator Johnson has suggested that, if the buyout is approved, the City should retain \$100,000 for future trail-related expenditures.

Alderman Meehean stated that the River District Development Foundation has met all their commitments to this point, and it would be an "insult" to them if the City retained a portion of the buyout funds.

City Administrator Johnson stated that having funds available for future trail-related expenditures was the suggestion of a previous Common Council.

Motion (Meehean/Russell) to approve the latest buyout offer of \$261,000, with the \$261,000 in turn given to the River District Development Foundation of Merrill.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 6/14/2016 7:00 PM
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3. Review and discussion of compensation for citizen members of City committees, boards and commissions.

Alderman Russell had requested that this item be placed on the agenda. The information in the meeting packet indicated that currently members of some City committees are paid, but members of other committees are not.

Alderman Russell noted that, at this time, Housing Authority members are not paid, but that, in several Wisconsin communities, Housing Authority members are paid.

City Administrator Johnson suggested that, if members of some committees are paid, then citizen members of all committees should be paid.

City Attorney Hayden will draft an ordinance for consideration at the next Personnel and Finance Committee meeting.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO P & F	Next: 6/28/2016 5:15 PM
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4. Consider creation of and authorization to fill new Police Officer (Drug Investigator) position.

This position was originally discussed at the April 23rd, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting. Alderman Russell noted that, at that meeting, there seemed to be a consensus that there is a need for the position. Alderman Schwartzman replied that, at that meeting, several Common Council members suggested that the position should be considered as part of the 2017 budget process.

Alderman Meehean stated that, based on the fiscal information in the meeting packet, there are sufficient funds for the position in 2016, but not necessary in 2017. He added that there will also be additional related costs if the position is created.

Mayor Bialecki asked Police Chief Neff if the drug problem in Merrill is out of control. Police Chief Neff responded that, at the current staff level, the Police Department cannot address the drug problem proactively. Mayor Bialecki remarked that the drug problem is a major concern that should be addressed and resolved.

Alderman Meehean stated that he is not in favor of creating a position without being able to fund it. Alderman Russell and Alderman Schwartzman agree.

It was suggested that this issue could be discussed at a future Committee of the Whole meeting, when budget numbers are clearer and a long-term plan for the position developed.

Alderwoman Ball suggested the exploration of creative alternatives prior to opting to hire another officer.

IV. Monthly Reports:

1. Municipal Court

The report was in the meeting packet.

2. Finance Director Unertl

The report was in the meeting packet.

3. City Attorney Hayden

The report was in the meeting packet.

4. City Clerk Heideman

The report was in the meeting packet.

5. City Administrator Johnson

The report was in the meeting packet. Work at the Merrill Festival Grounds continues.

6. Consider placing monthly reports on file

Motion (Meehean/Schwartzman) to place the monthly reports on file.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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V. Establish date, time and location of next regular meeting

Tuesday, June 28th, 2016 at 5:15 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

VI. Public Comment Period

None.

VII. Adjournment

Motion (Meehean/Russell) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:10 P.M.