

**City of Merrill
Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Common Council Chambers
1004 East First Street**

Committee of the Whole members present (9 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 John Burgener (Fifth District), Alderman Dave Sukow (Sixth District), Alderman Rob Norton (Seventh District) and Alderwoman Anne Caylor (Eighth District).

Other attendees included: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Street Commissioner Richard Lupton, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Police Chief Ken Neff, Fire Chief Dave Savone, Deb Brunett, Vince Conrad, 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.

Presentation on tips for improving audio/video @ meetings-Merrill Productions

Representing Merrill Productions, Deb Brunett provided some pointers on things that City officials can do to help improve both the audio and video aspects of taped City meetings. She noted that she has already given the same presentation to the Merrill Board of Education. She also distributed additional materials related to her presentation topic.

No action was requested, necessary or taken.

Consider request to lift hiring freeze to replace retiring Street Dept. employee

The retirement of Robert Dickey, a Street Department employee, is pending. Therefore, Street Commissioner Lupton is requesting that the hiring freeze be lifted to hire a replacement for the vacancy that will be created by that retirement.

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Motion (Hass/Schwartzman) to lift the hiring freeze. Carried.

Public Comment

None.

Motion to convene in closed session

Motion (Hass/Sukow) to convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes Section 19.85(1)(e) for 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 2014-2015 labor contract with International Association of Firefighters Local 847 and 2014-2015 labor contract with Merrill Professional Police Association. Motion carried 7-1 on roll call vote. Voting No – Alderman Norton.

Convened in closed session at 5:45 P.M.

Attending: Malm, Hass, Schwartzman, Peterson, Burgener, Sukow, Norton, Caylor, Bialecki, Johnson, Hayden, Unertl, Neff, Savone and Heideman.

Closed session

City Administrator Johnson reviewed the recent changes made to the proposed 2014-2015 contract with the International Association of Firefighters Local 847. He then reviewed the recent changes made to the proposed 2014-2015 contract with the Merrill Professional Police Association.

No action was taken.

Adjournment

Motion (Hass/Caylor) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned (from closed session) at 6:33 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk