

**City of Merrill
Committee of the Whole
Strategic Planning Session
Thursday, January 23, 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 Steve Hass (Second District), Alderman Ryan Schwartzman (Third District), Alderwoman Kandy Peterson (Fourth District), Alderman John Burgener (Fifth District), Alderman Dave Sukow (Sixth District) and Alderman Rob Norton (Seventh District).

Other attendees included: City Administrator Dave Johnson, 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, Michael Caylor Jr., Don Heyel, Collin Lueck, Judy Woller, Duane Pfister, 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 (facilitated by Art Lersch)

Lincoln County Community Development Educator Lersch distributed materials and then facilitated the first in a series of strategic long-term planning sessions. His presentation included the following main issues:

- Local trends
- Strategic planning in general
- This strategic planning project
- Commitments
- Your expectations?
- The Vision!

Following the presentation, discussion was held on various methods to ensure and increase the “openness” of government.

The definition of success was then discussed, followed by suggestion for steps that can be taken to help ensure success.

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.

Schedule future strategic planning session meeting(s)

Michael Caylor Jr. commented that, if strategic planning meetings continue until October, the Common Council will have little time to address any 2015 budget deficit issues. He suggested that budget issues need to be considered sooner rather than later.

The next four strategic planning meetings were scheduled as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 13 th , 2014	5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.	Common Council Chambers
March 6 th , 2014	5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.	To be announced
March 27 th , 2014	5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.	Common Council Chambers
April 17 th , 2014	5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.	Common Council Chambers

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion (Hass/Schwartzman) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk