

**City of Merrill  
Committee of the Whole  
Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 6:30 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, Police Captain Corey Bennett, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Street Commissioner Richard Lupton, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, Library Director Stacy Stevens, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Hall Maintenance Supervisor Ramona Vanderkam, Shari Wicke, 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 6:30 P.M.

**Consider change: Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator to full-time employee**

Information was in the meeting packet. City staff is recommending that the present contractual Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator position be changed to a full-time employee position, effective the first pay period in March. The approximate extra cost to make the change is \$9,423, based on the assurance from Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel that he will decline health insurance coverage through the City.

Alderman Hass stated that, although he is not necessarily opposed to the position being changed to full-time, he does not think the timing is right. In his opinion, this change should have been done either as part of the 2014 budget process or as part of the 2015 budget process, particularly since the City is in the middle of a strategic planning process. He also questioned the logic of allocating Tax Increment Finance (TIF) funds to cover the extra money needed to make the change.

Alderwoman Caylor raised the possibility that, at some future time, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel may seek health insurance coverage through the City. Based on that possibility, she stated that the \$18,000 "savings" in health insurance cannot really be considered savings.

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel responded that nobody can predict the future, and therefore at some future time he may be seeking health insurance coverage through the City.

**140291**

Motion (Hass/Caylor) to change the Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator position from a contracted position to a full-time City employee position, with the \$9,423 necessary to make the change to be taken from the Utility Fund. Carried.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

Motion (Hass/Caylor) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:43 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC  
City Clerk