



CITY OF MERRILL
PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES • TUESDAY JUNE 23, 2015

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	
John Burgener	Aldersperson - Fifth District & President	Present	
Tim Meehean	Aldersperson - Eighth District	Present	

Others attending: Mayor Bialecki, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Alderman Dave Sukow, Alderwoman Kandy Peterson, Police Chief Ken Neff, Matt Waid, Robert Caylor, Don Seubert, Randy Ingram (Wisconsin Professional Police Association) and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A student from MP3 was present to videotape the meeting.

II. Agenda items for consideration:

1. Vouchers

The vouchers for both April and May were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Burgener/Meehean) to approve the vouchers.

RESULT: APPROVED

2. Consider bids for potential sale of City property at 410 Blaine Street

The City has received and accepted an offer from Wells Fargo Bank to assume ownership of the property at 410 Blaine Street. After taking ownership, the City has sought and obtained sealed bids on the sale of the property.

Four bids were received, ranging from \$1,000 to \$8,000. City Administrator Johnson recommends approving the bid of \$8,000 from Scott Bruenig.

Finance Director Unertl recommended that, if approved, the funds from this sale be applied to a Community Development block grant associated with the property.

Motion (Meehean/Burgener) to approve the bid of \$8,000 from Scott Bruenig. The funds realized from this sale would be applied to a Community Development block grant associated with the property.

RESULT: APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL **Next: 7/14/2015 7:00 PM**

3. Discuss potential amendment(s) to Code of Ordinance Article V, related to sales of City properties to facilitate return of delinquent tax foreclosure parcels back into taxable status.

Information was in the meeting packet.

Finance Director Unertl is proposing an ordinance amendment to streamline the process of returning delinquent tax foreclosure parcels back into taxable status. Under her proposal, a parcel would initially be analyzed to determine whether there is any City use for it. If there is no City use, the City Administrator would have the authority to make a decision to:

1. Offer the property for sale via a bid process
2. Negotiate with adjacent property owner(s) on possible sale to them.

Alderman Meehean stated that he was not comfortable with the City Administrator being the sole authority on property disposal, and he speculated that the City Administrator might not be comfortable with that either. Alderman Meehean suggested another option, in which bids would be taken on all properties being disposed. Those bids would then be analyzed and a decision be made in each case to accept a bid or reject all bids.

It was agreed that the ultimate goal of any policy change would be to streamline the process of returning properties to taxable status.

No action was taken at this time. This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO NEXT MEETING	Next: 7/28/2015 5:15 PM
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Monthly Reports:

Alderman Schwartzman requested that he be allowed to change the order of agenda items, in order to consider the monthly reports next. Without objection it was so ordered.

1. **Municipal Court**

The report was in the meeting packet.

2. **Finance Director Unertl**

The report was in the meeting packet. Finance Director Unertl provided additional information on several parcels near the fire station.

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.

6. **Consider placing monthly reports on file**

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

RESULT:	CARRIED
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Hear next step in Police Department grievance pertaining to compensation.

At 5:28 P.M., Alderman Schwartzman announced a recess until after the completion of the special Common Council meeting scheduled for 5:30 P.M.

Motion (Meehean/Burgener) to reconvene the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting. Carried.

At 5:34 P.M., Alderman Schwartzman called the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting back to order.

During the negotiations that resulted in the 2014-2015 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Merrill Professional Police Association, both the Certification Pay and the Education Pay were modified from an annual benefit payment to a rate per hour payment. The Merrill Professional Police Association recently learned that the payroll calculation for overtime hours excludes both the Certification Pay and Education Pay from the officer's hourly rate. The union filed the grievance because it is their position that this is contrary to the agreement.

Discussion on the grievance centered on the fact that the contract includes an annual amount for both Certification Pay (\$600) and Education Pay (\$360).

The Merrill Professional Police Association contends that the purpose of including the annual amount was to ensure that the non-union employees would also receive the benefits if eligible.

The City contends that the annual language included in the contract indicates that the annual amounts serve as maximum annual amounts, and therefore the hourly rates for Certification Pay and Education Pay should not be included in any calculations involving overtime hours.

Motion (Meehean/Burgener) to deny the grievance.

RESULT:	CARRIED [2 TO 1]
AYES:	Burgener, Meehean
NAYS:	Schwartzman

Establish date, time and location of next regular meeting

July 28th, 2015 at 5:15 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Motion (Burgener/Meehean) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:58 P.M.