



Finance Director Unertl stated that a decision does not have to be made at this meeting. Further research on this will be conducted. It was suggested that group health insurance could be an item for discussion at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

No action was taken at this time.

**3. An Ordinance creating the Merrill Festival Grounds Committee. The Personnel and Finance Committee recommends approval.**

Alderman Schwartzman questioned the inclusion of any City officials on the committee: He suggested a committee comprised of three (3) City of Merrill Common Council members and four (4) members at-large.

City Administrator Johnson suggested the following composition: Two (2) City of Merrill Common Council members, City Administrator, a Rodeo Association representative, a Fair Association representative and a Food Vendor representative.

Alderman Meehean suggested the following composition: Three (3) City of Merrill Common Council members, City Administrator, a Rodeo Association representative, a Fair Association representative and a Food Vendor representative.

Mayor Bialecki suggested that, rather than have the committee elect a committee chair and a vice-chair, those two position should be appointed by the Mayor.

Motion (Meehean/Russell) to recommend approving the ordinance with the following changes to the draft ordinance in the meeting packet: The committee would consist of the following voting members: Three (3) City of Merrill Common Council members, City Administrator, a Rodeo Association representative, a Fair Association representative and a Food Vendor representative. A Committee Chair and Vice-Chair would be appointed by the Mayor.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED &amp; SENT TO COUNCIL</b>	<b>Next: 10/11/2016 7:00 PM</b>
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**4. Consider creating a Public Works I position and deleting a Public Works II position in the Street Department. The Personnel and Finance Committee recommends approval.**

Street Superintendent Bonack has submitted this agenda item request. In the summer, the City initiated an enhanced storm water collection system maintenance program. The person currently responsible for this program is a Public Works II position, but this program should be overseen by a Public Works I employee. Therefore, the request is to create another Public Works I position and delete a Public Works II position. City Administrator Johnson recommends approval.

If the position creation is approved, it would initially be posted only in-house, thereby allowing all current Public Works II employees the opportunity to apply for the new Public Works I position. The additional cost of the new position is estimated to be \$2,600 annually.

Motion (Meehean/Russell) to approve.

**RESULT:****APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL****Next: 10/11/2016 7:00 PM**

5. Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article VII, Section 2-191, to eliminate the requirement of Common Council approval when hiring relatives.

City Attorney Hayden distributed an alternate draft ordinance to replace the one that was in the meeting packet.

Motion (Meehean/Russell) to retain the ordinance currently in place, but to retroactively approve all previous cases in which relatives were hired.

Alderman Meehean requested that his motion be withdrawn. Without objection, it was so ordered.

After discussion, it was announced that this item would be delayed until the next regular meeting.

Alderman Meehean suggested that the next agenda include an item addressing the hiring of employees in violation of the ordinance, if indeed there was an ordinance violation.

Derek Woellner spoke to this issue. He stated that he has researched this issue, but has been unable to get answers from the Finance Director on his questions related to this issue.

No action was taken at this time.

6. Resolution amending Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Employee Handbook for non-union City of Merrill employees.

City Administrator Johnson began leading discussion on the proposed handbook changes. After discussing a portion of the changes, Alderman Russell suggested that it might be advantageous to reserve any discussion on changes until the entire handbook has been reviewed and all suggested updates prepared. There was no objection to his suggestion.

Work will continue on handbook updates, and optimistically all updates will be ready for consideration at the next meeting.

No action was taken at this time.

#### IV. Monthly Reports:

##### 1. Municipal Court

The report was in the meeting packet.

City Attorney Hayden reported that things are going well in both the Merrill and Tomahawk courts.

##### 2. Finance Director Unertl

The report was in the meeting packet.

Alderman Russell inquired on the hours for the upcoming budget session on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Finance Director Unertl responded that the session will begin at 8:15 P.M., and that the session usually adjourns at approximately 3:00 P.M.

### 3. City Attorney Hayden

The report was in the meeting packet.

### 4. City Clerk Heideman

The report was in the meeting packet.

City Clerk Heideman reported that in-house absentee voting will begin at City Hall on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### 5. City Administrator Johnson

The report was in the meeting packet.

City Administrator Johnson reported that Ron Nicklaus is working on purchasing a property near the Merrill Historical Society. He would then demolish the property and build a new building to house and display his tractor collection and house an agriculture-themed annex to the present museum. The Merrill Historical Society could also use a portion of the building for storage. This could affect the future of the former American Legion building, which the Merrill Historical Society currently uses for storage.

It was noted that the Bierman Family Aquatic Center had a financially favorable outcome in the first year of operations.

### 6. Consider placing monthly reports on file

Motion (Meehean/Russell) to place on file.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PLACED ON FILE</b>
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### V. Establish date, time and location of next regular meeting

Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 5:15 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

### VI. Public Comment Period

Alderman Ryan Schwartzman proudly announced the birth of his third child, a son named Wyatt, born on September 26<sup>th</sup>. He thanked all those who had extended best wishes to him in person or on social media. Ryan's wife Stephanie and Wyatt are both doing well.

### VII. Adjournment

Motion (Meehean/Russell) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:15 P.M.