



CITY OF MERRILL

COMMON COUNCIL

MINUTES • TUESDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2018

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Present	
Steve Hass	Aldersperson - Second District	Present	
Rick Blake	Aldersperson - Third District	Present	
Steve Osness	Aldersperson - Fourth District	Present	
John M. Van Lieshout	Aldersperson - Fifth District	Present	
Dave Sukow	Aldersperson - Sixth District	Present	
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Tim Meehean	Aldersperson - Eighth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	

2. Invocation by Pastor Andy Perry, Bible Presbyterian Church

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call

5. Public Comment Period

Mayor Woellner requested that, because a public hearing on the 2019 budget would be held later in the meeting, public comments be limited to non-budget issues.

There was no public comment.

6. Minutes of previous Common Council meeting(s):

1. Minutes of October 9, 2018 meeting

Motion (Norton/Meehean) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

7. Revenue & Expense Reports(s):

1. Revenue & Expense Report for Period Ending October 31, 2018

Motion (Van Lieshout/Russell) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

8. Public Hearing(s):

1. Public Hearing on proposed 2019 Budget

City Attorney Hayden read the public hearing notice.

Motion (Hass/Meehean) to open the public hearing. Carried.

Eric Ott urged the Common Council to vote “No” on the budget ordinance.

Merle Sheridan stated that the recent dramatic increases in his property taxes are absurd. He stated that, if the trend continues, people living on a fixed income will be forced to make difficult decisions.

Karen Karow asked the Common Council to review the proposed budget to determine what cuts can be made. She said that tax increases year after year are ridiculous.

Mark Bares stated that he would not accept the excuse that actions taken in 2001 are responsible for the current City financial situation. In his opinion, fiscal irresponsibility of a more recent nature has led to the present situation.

Josh Klug stated Merrill taxpayers received a great deal of value in exchange for paying taxes.

Becky Meyer urged the Common Council to exercise fiscal responsibility by voting “No” on the budget ordinance.

Mike Leopold stated that there are numerous things in Merrill that “need fixing” and he urged the Common Council to fix those things.

Motion (Norton/Blake) to close the public hearing. Carried.

9. **Budget Ordinance:**

1. **An Ordinance adopting the 2019 City of Merrill budget and establishing the tax levy for year 2018.**

Motion (Russell/Hass) to change the order of agenda items and consider the 2019 budget ordinance next. Carried.

The following actions related to the proposed 2019 budget were then taken:

Motion (Hass/Osness) to remove the City Hall AC Chiller Replacement (\$100,000). Motion failed 2-6 on roll call vote. Voting Yes - Alderman Hass and Alderman Osness.

Motion (Hass/Sukow) to remove the Fire Department UTV - Rescue Vehicle (\$27,000). Motion carried 6-2 on roll call vote. Voting No - Alderman Van Lieshout and Alderman Norton.

Motion (Hass) to remove the Fire Department Utility Trailer Replacement (\$10,000). Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Motion (Hass/Sukow) to remove the Airport T-Hangar (\$300,000). Motion carried 6-2 on roll call vote. Voting No - Alderman Norton and Alderman Meehean.

Motion (Hass/Osness) to remove the Rubber Flooring - Smith Center (\$17,000). Motion carried 6-2 on roll call vote. Voting No - Alderman Sukow and Alderman Norton.

Motion (Russell/Hass) to restore \$5,000 to the Rubber Flooring - Smith Center. Motion carried 6-2 on roll call vote. Voting No - Alderman Norton and Alderman Meehean.

Docks at Riverside Park and Ott's Park were then discussed. No action was taken.

Motion (Hass/Sukow) to remove the Street Loader Truck (\$95,000). Roll call vote resulted in a 4-4 tie. Voting Yes - Alderman Russell, Alderman Hass, Alderman Blake and Alderman Osness. Mayor Woellner broke the tie by voting Yes. Therefore, the motion carried.

Motion (Hass) to remove the Street Pneumatic Roller (\$90,000). Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Motion (Hass/Osness) to reassign the Fire Department Administrative Assistant to the Enrichment Center. Motion failed 1-7 on roll call vote. Voting Yes - Alderman Hass.

Motion (Hass) to transfer the Ford Explorer vehicle from the Fire Department to the Police Department, to be used by the School Resource Officer. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Motion (Hass/Russell) to freeze, for one year, the wages of the City Administrator, City Attorney and all other department heads. After discussion, Alderman Russell requested that his second be withdrawn. There was no objection to his request. No vote was taken.

Motion (Osness/Hass) to remove the River Bend Train Extension project (\$100,000). Motion failed 2-6 on roll call vote. Voting Yes - Alderman Hass and Alderman Osness.

The following action was then taken on the budget ordinance:

RESULT:	APPROVED [6 TO 2]
MOVER:	Rob Norton, Alderperson - Seventh District
SECONDER:	Tim Meehean, Alderperson - Eighth District
AYES:	Russell, Blake, Van Lieshout, Sukow, Norton, Meehean
NAYS:	Hass, Osness

10. General agenda items:

1. Employee Years of Service Recognition:

Melissa K. Tremaine, 10 years (Police Department)

City Clerk Heideman read a certificate of recognition for Melissa Tremaine.

Joseph R. Weckwerth, 10 years (Parks & Recreation)

City Clerk Heideman read a certificate of recognition for Joe Weckwerth.

11. Board of Public Works:

1. Consider request from Merrill Social and Sick Benefit Society to purchase a portion of a City parking lot (approximately 20 feet by 60 feet on Grand Avenue) to facilitate expansion of the S & S Bar, 418 Grand Avenue. The Board of Public Works approved the sale, but did not establish a specific price. City staff recommends that the sale price be \$2.500.

Motion (Norton/Osness) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

12. Health and Safety Committee:

1. Application from Club 107 LLC, Courtney Bennish, Agent, for Class "B" (beer) and "Class B" (liquor) licenses for Club 107, 2410 Highway 107, effective November 14, 2018. The Health and Safety Committee recommends approval.

Motion (Van Lieshout/Meehean) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

13. Placing Committee Reports on File:

1. Consider placing the following committee reports on file: Airport Commission, City Plan Commission, Committee of the Whole, Festival Grounds Committee, Health and Safety Committee, Housing Authority, Library Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, Personnel and Finance Committee, Redevelopment Authority, Skate Park Special Committee and Transit Commission.

Motion (Norton/Sukow) to place on file.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

14. Mayor's Appointments:

Alderman Hass to the Board of Public Works, to fill a vacancy.

Alderman Hass to the Water & Sewage Disposal Committee, to fill a vacancy.

Alderman Blake to the Health and Safety Committee, replacing Alderman Russell.

Alderman Blake to the Housing Authority, replacing Alderman Norton.

Dr. Dan Novitch to the Parks and Recreation Commission, replacing Mike Willman, who has resigned. The term will expire May 1, 2019.

Motion (Meehean/Norton) to approve all mayor's appointments as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED

15. Ordinances (continued):

1. An Ordinance amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 18, Article IV, Section 18-149, related to disposal of surplus City property (Ordinance #2018-14).

City Attorney Hayden gave the ordinance a first reading.

Motion (Norton/Meehean) to suspend the rules and give the ordinance a second reading and a third reading by title only. Carried.

City Attorney Hayden gave the ordinance a second reading and a third reading by title only.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John M. Van Lieshout, Alderperson - Fifth District
SECONDER:	Rob Norton, Alderperson - Seventh District
AYES:	Russell, Hass, Blake, Osness, Van Lieshout, Sukow, Norton, Meehean

2. An Ordinance amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article IV, Section 2-81(e)(2), related to frequency requirements for meetings of standing committees (Ordinance #2018-15).

City Attorney Hayden gave the ordinance a first reading.

Motion (Norton/Meehean) to suspend the rules and give the ordinance a second reading and a third reading by title only. Carried.

City Attorney Hayden gave the ordinance a second reading and a third reading by title only.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Rob Norton, Alderperson - Seventh District
SECONDER:	Tim Meehean, Alderperson - Eighth District
AYES:	Russell, Hass, Blake, Osness, Van Lieshout, Sukow, Norton, Meehean

16. Resolutions:

1. A Resolution ratifying an agency agreement and federal block grant owner assurances, related to an airport improvements project (Resolution #2586).

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin hereinafter referred to as the sponsor, being a municipal body corporate of the State of Wisconsin, is authorized by Wis. Stat. §114.11, to acquire, establish, construct, own, control, lease, equip, improve, maintain, and operate an airport, and

WHEREAS, the sponsor desires to develop or improve the Merrill Municipal Airport, Lincoln County, Wisconsin,

"PETITION FOR AIRPORT PROJECT"

WHEREAS, the foregoing proposal for airport improvements has been referred to the city plan commission for its consideration and report prior to council action as required by Wis. Stat. §62.23(5), and

WHEREAS, airport users have been consulted in formulation of the improvements included in this resolution, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held prior to the adoption of this petition in accordance with Wis. Stat. §114.33(2) as amended, and a transcript of the hearing is transmitted with this petition, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 10th day of July, 2018, that a petition for federal and (or) state aid in the following form is hereby approved:

The petitioner, desiring to sponsor an airport development project with federal and state aid or state aid only, in accordance with the applicable state and federal laws, respectfully represents and states:

1. That the airport, which it is desired to develop, should generally conform to the requirements for a general aviation type airport as defined by the Federal Aviation Administration.
2. The character, extent, and kind of improvements desired under the project are as follows: Crack seal and sealcoat airport pavements; Purchase snow removal and mowing equipment; Replace Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS); Land acquisition in runway approaches; Conduct wildlife site visit; Clear runway approaches; Construct partial parallel taxiway to Runway 16/34; Reconstruct Runway 16/34, including lighting; Rehab/Replace Runway 16/34 PAPI & REILs; Runway 16/34 safety area improvements and extension to standard; Replace airfield signs; Relocate/Replace rotating beacon; Construct new electrical vault; Extend Runway 16/34 to 3400 feet; Extend parallel taxiway to full length of Runway 16/34, and any necessary related work.
3. That the airport project, which your petitioner desires to sponsor, is necessary for the following reasons: to meet the existing and future needs of the airport.

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the improvements petitioned for as listed will be funded individually or collectively as funds are available, with specific project costs to be approved as work is authorized, the proportionate cost of the airport development projects described above which are to be paid by the sponsor to the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as the Secretary) to be held in trust for the purposes of the project; any unneeded and unspent balance after the project is completed is to be returned to the sponsor by the Secretary; the sponsor will make available any additional monies that may be found necessary, upon request of the Secretary, to complete the project as described above; the Secretary shall have the right to suspend or discontinue the project at any time additional monies are found to be necessary by the Secretary, and the sponsor does not provide the same; in the event the sponsor unilaterally terminates the project, all reasonable federal and state expenditures related to the project shall be paid by the sponsor; and

WHEREAS, the sponsor is required by Wis. Stat. §114.32(5) to designate the Secretary as its agent to accept, receive, receipt for and disburse any funds granted by the United States under the Federal Airport and Airway Improvement Act, and is authorized by law to designate the Secretary as its agent for other purposes.

"DESIGNATION OF SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION AS SPONSOR'S AGENT"

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the sponsor that the Secretary is hereby designated as its agent and is requested to agree to act as such, in matters relating to the airport development project described above, and is hereby authorized as its agent to make all arrangements for the development and final acceptance of the completed project whether by contract, agreement, force account or otherwise; and particularly, to accept, receive, receipt for and disburse federal monies or other monies, either public or private, for the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance and operation of the airport; and, to acquire property or interests in property by purchase, gift, lease, or eminent domain under Wis. Stat. §32 .02; and, to supervise the work of any engineer, appraiser, negotiator, contractor or other person employed by the Secretary; and, to execute any assurances or other documents required or requested by any agency of the federal government and to comply with all federal and state laws, rules, and regulations relating to airport development projects.

FURTHER, the sponsor requests that the Secretary provide, per Wis. Stat. §114.33(8)(a), that the sponsor may acquire certain parts of the required land or interests in land that the Secretary shall find necessary to complete the aforesaid project.

"AIRPORT OWNER ASSURANCES"

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sponsor agrees to maintain and operate the airport in accordance with certain conditions established in Wis. Admin. Code Trans §55, or in accordance with sponsor assurances enumerated in a federal grant agreement.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE Mayor and the Airport Commission Chairman be authorized to sign and execute the agency agreement and federal block grant owner assurances authorized by this resolution.

Motion (Norton/Van Lieshout) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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2. A Resolution honoring Ryan Schwartzman for his extended service and great contribution to the City of Merrill (Resolution #2587).

WHEREAS, Ryan Schwartzman resigned as Third District Alderperson of the City of Merrill on August 26, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, Ryan Schwartzman has served as an alderperson for the City of Merrill since April 20, 2010 and as Council President since April 17, 2018, and,

WHEREAS, the personal commitment and unselfish dedication Ryan Schwartzman has put forth has contributed greatly to the growth, progress and stability of the City of Merrill; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill offers a solid and stable community environment for all of its citizens in part because of Ryan Schwartzman’s dedicated service; and,

WHEREAS, Ryan Schwartzman’s cheerful manner and hard work will be missed at the Merrill City Hall;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 13th day of November, 2018, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Ryan Schwartzman has given to the City of Merrill and commend him for those years of service.

Motion (Common Council/Common Council) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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3. A Resolution honoring Pete Lokemoen for his extended service and great contribution to the City of Merrill (Resolution #2588).

WHEREAS, Pete Lokemoen resigned as Second District Alderperson of the City of Merrill on September 15, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, Pete Lokemoen has served as an alderperson for the City of Merrill since April 15, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, the personal commitment and unselfish dedication Pete Lokemoen has put forth has contributed greatly to the growth, progress and stability of the City of Merrill; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Merrill offers a solid and stable community environment for all of its citizens in part because of Pete Lokemoen's dedicated service; and,

WHEREAS Pete Lokemoen's cheerful manner and hard work will be missed at the Merrill City Hall;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 13th day of November, 2018, that the Common Council, and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Pete Lokemoen has given to the City of Merrill and commend him for those years of service.

Motion (Common Council/Common Council) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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17. Mayor's Communications

None.

18. Adjournment

Motion (Van Lieshout/Osness) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 9:03 P.M.