



CITY OF MERRILL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES • TUESDAY OCTOBER 8, 2019

Budget Session

City Hall Council Chambers

5:00 PM

I. Call to Order

In the absence of Mayor Woellner, Alderman Russell called the meeting to order at 5:00 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	
Mike Rick	Aldersperson - Sixth District	Present	
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Steve Sabatke	Alderman - Eighth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Excused	

Also in attendance: Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey (arr. 6:16 P.M.), Police Chief Corey Bennett, Street Superintendent Dustin Bonack, Transit Director Brad Brummond, City Attorney Tom Hayden, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Enrichment Center Director Tammie Mrachek, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, Utility Operations Manager Gabe Steinagel, Library Director Stacy Stevens, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Parks & Recreation Director Dan Wendorf, Facilities Maintenance Manager Nick Wszalek, Lori Anderson-Malm, Al Wix, Linda Becker, LaDonna Fermanich, Vince Conrad, Mary Bauman, Ryan Schwartzman (arr. 5:05), Tim Zimmerman (arr. 6:14) and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A representative from Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Review and discussion of 2020 Budget Requests:

City Attorney Hayden explained that, in the absence of the Mayor, the Common Council President is to chair Committee of the Whole meetings. Based on that, Alderman Russell turned the meeting over to Alderman Norton.

1. Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Director Wendorf answered questions from the committee. He then reviewed the Parks and Recreation budgets, as follows: Parks (pages 53 & 54), Athletic Park Lights (page 55), Ott's Park Lights (page 56), Recreation Programs (page 57 & 58), MARC - Smith Center (pages 59 & 60) and Aquatic Center (pages 61-62).

The Parks & Recreation Capital/Equipment requests (pages 63-91) were then reviewed.

2. Merrill Festival Grounds

Finance Director Unertl and City Administrator Johnson reviewed the Festival Grounds operating and capital budgets (pages 92-103).

Discussion was held on various options for maintenance/rehabilitation of the cattle barn.

3. Merrill Marketing

Finance Director Unertl reviewed the Marketing - PR budget (page104).

4. Outside Agencies

Finance Director Unertl reviewed the Outside Agencies budget and requests (pages106-121).

5. Merrill Productions (Cable/Video Franchise)

Finance Director Unertl reviewed the Cable Franchise budget (page122).

6. Police (including School Resource Officer)

Police Chief Bennett reviewed the Police Department budgets, as follows: Police (pages 128-130) and Police - SRO (page 131).

The Police Department Capital/Equipment requests (pages 132-136) were then reviewed.

7. Fire and Ambulance-EMS

Fire Chief Klug reviewed the Fire Department and Ambulances budgets, as follows: Fire Protection (pages 137 & 138), Capital/Equipment requests (pages 139-148) and Ambulance/EMS (pages 149-151).

8. Fire Protection - Hydrants

Finance Director Unertl reviewed the Fire Protection - Hydrants budget (page152).

IV. Public Comment

Linda Becker spoke on behalf of the Merrill City Band, urging continued City support of the band. She reminded the committee that the band has limited their funding requests to operating expenses and has never requested funds for any capital projects/expenses.

V. Adjournment

Motion (Rick/Osness) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:48 P.M.