



CITY OF MERRILL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES • TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Budget Session

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 PM

I. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 5:15 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	Present	

Other attendees: Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Street Superintendent Dustin Bonack, Transit Director Brad Brummond, City Attorney Tom Hayden, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Fire Chief Josh Klug (arr. 5:21), Enrichment Center Director Tammie Mrachuk, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, Library Director Stacy Stevens, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Park and Recreation Director Dan Wendorf, Facilities Maintenance Manager Nick Wszalek, Ryan Schwartzman, Lori Anderson-Malm, Dennis Krueger, Gary Schwartz, LaDonna Fermanich, Al Wix, Roger Drewek, Ernie McCarthy, Kent Johnson, Becky Meyer, Phil Skoug, Mike Ravn (arr. 6:02), Lee Opsahl (arr. 6:54) and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Hunter Lane was in attendance to videotape the meeting for Merrill Productions.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Review, discussion and decision on 2020 Budget Requests

1. Follow -up on Airport Commission T-Hangar funding request (from November 5th Airport Commission meeting)

Information was in the meeting packet.

Alderman Rick, a member of the Airport Commission, reported that the Airport Commission recommends including the new T-Hangars in the 2020 Capital Budget.

Alderman Sabatke stated his opinion that, while the hangar project is worthwhile, \$300,000 is a significant expenditure.

Without objection, floor privileges were granted to Gary Schwartz, who provided details on the project.

Motion (Osness/Sabatke) to postpone the new T-Hangar project (\$300,000) and remove it from the 2020 Capital Budget. Motion carried 5-4 on roll call vote. Voting No - Alderman Blake, Alderman Van Lieshout, Alderman Norton and Mayor Woellner.

2. Review Finance Directors technical 2020 budget changes related to Street Department functions

Finance Director Unertl reported on budget changes she has made to achieve a balanced budget.

3. Review Finance Directors Technical 2020 budget changes related to Tax Increment Districts (TIDS) No. 4 and No.5

Finance Director Unertl reported on budget changes she has made to TID budgets.

4. Proposed Tax Levy and preliminary Tax Rate calculation

Information was in the meeting packet.

Finance Director Unertl reported that the current budget reflects a decrease in total tax levy of approximately 0.19%.

5. Final 2020 budget changes

The following motions related to the 2020 City Budget were made:

Motion (Hass/Osness) to remove the Infield Dragger Replacement (\$25,000) and add \$2,000 to the budget for a new motor for the dragger. Carried 6-3 on roll call vote. Voting No - Alderman Van Lieshout, Alderman Norton and Mayor Woellner.

Motion (Hass/Sabatke) to remove one of the replacements of the zero-turn mowers (\$20,000). Carried 7-2 on roll call vote. Voting No - Alderman Van Lieshout and Alderman Norton.

Motion (Sabatke/Hass) to remove the Cattle Barn - Rehab (\$40,000). Motion failed 4-5 on roll call vote. Voting Yes - Alderman Hass, Alderman Osness, Alderman Sabatke and Mayor Woellner.

Motion (Sabatke) to remove the Festival Grounds Street Improvements (Paving \$150,000). Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Motion (Sabatke/Osness) to refer the Festival Grounds Street Improvements back to the Festival Grounds Committee. After discussion, Alderman Sabatke requested that his motion be withdrawn, stating that the purpose of his motion was to ensure that the Festival Grounds Committee would discuss 2020 paving. Without objection, his request to withdraw his motion was granted.

Motion (Hass/Osness) to remove the addition of an Assistant Finance Director position and instead hire an Administrative Assistant at Grade 6, with no degree required for the position. Motion failed 4-5 on roll call vote. Voting Yes - Alderman Hass, Alderman Osness, Alderman Rick and Alderman Sabatke.

Motion (Hass/Sabatke) to remove the Fire Department Administrative Assistant position. Motion failed 3-6 on roll call vote. Voting Yes - Alderman Hass, Alderman Osness and Alderman Sabatke.

Motion (Osness/Sabatke) to remove the Festival Grounds Manager position. After discussion, Alderman Osness requested that his motion be withdrawn. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Motion (Hass/Sabatke) to freeze the wages and steps for all Non-Elected Department Heads and Supervisory Employees (Fire Battalion Chiefs and Police Captains). Motion failed 4-5 on roll call vote. Voting Yes - Alderman Hass, Alderman Osness, Alderman Rick and Alderman Sabatke.

IV. Public Comment

Did not occur, as a motion to adjourn was passed before this agenda item was considered.

V. Adjournment

Motion (Russell/Osness) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 7:02 P.M.