



**CITY OF MERRILL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

MINUTES • WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2019

Strategic Planning Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

6:00 PM

I. Call to Order

Mike Ravn called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Excused	
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	Excused	
Mike Rick	Aldersperson - Sixth District	Present	
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Steve Sabatke	Alderman - Eighth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	

Also in attendance: 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, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, Utility Operations Manager Gabe Steinagel, Library Director Stacy Stevens, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Facilities Maintenance Manager Nick Wszalek, Mike Ravn (Meeting Facilitator), Allen Wix, Lee Opsahl, Sharon Anderson, LaDonna Fermanich, Jean Greenwood, Kyle Gulke, John Greenwood, Cheryl Kanitz, Gene Bebel, Jon Leiskau, Bill Bialecki, September Murphy, Debbie Kinsey and City Clerk Bill Heideman (arr. 6:10 P.M.). Hunter Lane was present to videotape the meeting for Merrill Productions.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Did not occur.

III. Agenda Items for Consideration:

1. Development of strategic initiatives and action plans to achieve Merrill's strategic objectives.

Mike Ravn begin with introductory remarks and instructions. He noted that the goal of this meeting was to complete templates related to the four main strategic initiatives that have been identified. Four tables have been prepared and the people sitting at each table will work together on one of the four initiatives. The groups were given 30 minutes to formulate actions steps to accomplish the initiative they were assigned. They were instructed to then prioritize their three most important action steps.

The four main initiatives are related to the following:

1. Increase citizen/civic engagement in City issues
2. Achieve a balance of taxes and services provided
3. Attract more people to Merrill

4. Increase the City tax base

After 30 minutes each table reported on their template, as follows:

1. John Greenwood - Civic Engagement
2. Alderman Hass - Taxes and Services
3. Debbie Kinsey - Attracting People
4. Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey - Tax Base

Mike Ravn then asked that a representative from each table submit their documentation to him or to City Attorney Hayden as soon as possible. Based on that documentation, a “draft” document will be prepared before the next meeting.

Mike Ravn then suggested the possibility of adding one meeting to the Strategic Planning meetings schedule. If scheduled, that meeting will be in January of 2020.

IV. Public Comment Period

Did not occur.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 P.M. (No motion or vote).