

**City of Merrill  
Festival Grounds Committee  
Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.  
Bierman Building**

I. Alderman Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Committee members Present: Mayor Derek Woellner, Rob Norton, (Chairperson), Alderman John Van Lieshout, Alderman Steve Sabatke, Bryan Bloch, Michael Caylor, Brad Becker

Other attendees included, City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Festival Grounds Manager Richard Bjorklund, Krista Mitchell, Kyle Gulke, and a MP3 representative.

Excused: City Clerk Heideman

II. Minutes of pervious meeting:

1. Minutes of the December 5, 2020 meeting.  
Motion (Van Lieshout/Bloch) to approve.

III. Agenda Items for consideration:

1. Water & Electrical

Rodeo Association Rep. Bryan Bloch asked that we take a look at what it would cost to upgrade the plug-ins along the south fence for campers. Just electrical and water. He's seen people charged \$20/day at another fairgrounds for the same thing, so there is the possibility of revenue. Would be nice for the rodeo, also could be used during the fair. City Administrator Dave Johnson asked if we were looking to have this available year round or just during events. Bryan said just during events right now, but worth looking into for the future. Possibly also have a restroom that's open year round, if we decide to have camping year round. Alderman John Van Lieshout thought it would be a good idea to get an estimate. Dave Johnson will look into getting estimates.

2. Cattle Barn

City Administrator Dave Johnson reported that there are six things we can do to address the cattle barn: nothing, patches, partial wood replacement, full wood replacement, new siding (different options), or build a new building. There was discussion about the pros and cons of having a new building. Some pros being more space, other venue options, possibly rent out stalls. Cons were that the current building has a lot of sentimental value, it's a "showpiece" as there are only 3 in

the state, cost. Dave Johnson said we have \$107,000 to work with. Food Vendor Rep. Michael Caylor asked why are we wanting to scrap the building if we have the budget to fix it? Alderman Steve Sabatke said he doesn't think we're to the point where it needs to be torn down. Michael Caylor moved to use funds to purchase Hardy Board, Mayor seconded. Michael Caylor withdrew motion to wait so they could see samples of siding first. Mayor suggests we concentrate on fixing the siding on the current building and not a new building. Estimates will be presented at next meeting.

3. Use of cattle barn for animals during natural disasters  
Copy of the Emergency Building Use Agreement was handed out. City Attorney Tom Hayden said they worked on it together with Nancy Bergstrom. Mayor motioned to approve agreement, Michael Caylor seconded. Bryan Bloch asked to discuss, Rob Norton opened for discussion. Quick discussion regarding only using the buildings that are available at the time. All in favor Aye, no opposed, motion carried.
4. Calendar of Events/Feedback  
Krista reported on the upcoming events. Getting wedding inquiries for summer months. There's a new event coming in May, a pig show, hopefully it will be a repeat event for us. Rick Bjorklund said the wrestling events are getting more filled up with each show. The gun show was successful in the beginning of January, he plans to keep it at that time of year for the future. Dave Johnson mentioned that the Riders Club is thinking about doing some advertising this year with hopes of getting some people in the stands. Bryan Bloch mentioned they might like to see some camping hookups also.

#### IV. Monthly Reports:

1. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

Mayor agrees that an atv youth track would be a good idea for the area.

2. Food Vendor Rep. Caylor

No meetings until April.

3. Fair Association

Brad Becker reported that they have 25 rides coming to the fair this year, the Carnival has been signed, and they are looking to get hatchet

throwing and an escape room. Demo's are on Friday, Tractor Pull Saturday, and Monster Trucks on Sunday.

V. Public Comment Period

There was no Public Comment.

VI. Establish date, time and location of next meeting.

Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bierman Building.

VII. Adjournment

Motion (Van Lieshout/Mayor) to adjourn. Carried.  
Adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

Krista M. Mitchell