



CITY OF MERRILL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES • WEDNESDAY APRIL 22, 2020

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

6:00 PM

I. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 6:00 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	
Mark Weix	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Steve Sabatke	Alderman - Eighth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	

Note: This was a "virtual" meeting, with the majority of attendees, including all eight alderspersons, participating remotely.

II. Silent Prayer

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Public Comment Period

Mayor Woellner announced that the public comment for this meeting would be held "open" until 4:30 P.M. on Friday, April 24th. People can submit comments to their aldersperson, Mayor Woellner or City Administrator Johnson.

There was no public comment at the meeting.

V. Agenda items for consideration:

1. **Fiscal Status Report - 2020 Capital.** At the April 14th Common Council meeting, this item was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Information was in the meeting packet.

Finance Director Unertl stated that, at this time, the City is in "good shape" fiscally. The two main sources of revenue are property taxes and state aid. To date, the state has met their obligations to the City.

Discussion was then held on whether to open the aquatic center in 2020. At this time, many other municipalities have not yet made a decision opening their aquatic centers this year. Parks and Recreation Director Wendorf stated that the aquatic center would not open unless it was economically feasible. Alderman Russell stated that it was premature to make a decision now.

The Athletic Park tuck-pointing project (\$20,000) was discussed.

Finance Director Unertl reminded everyone that all 2020 capital projects have already been discussed at previous meetings.

Motion (Osness/Sabatke) to refer the Fire Department parking lot paving project to the Board of Public Works. Motion failed 4-5 on roll call vote. Voting Yes - Alderman Russell, Alderman Osness, Alderman Rick and Alderman Sabatke.

Motion (Hass/Russell) to defer the following 2020 capital items: Dock-Riverside (\$15,000), Streets Garage Parking Lot (\$100,000), Concrete - Sidewalk (\$75,000), Black Dirt Screening (\$12,500), Poplar & Court Streets project (\$150,000), Mill St. (East Main Street to East First Street) project (\$60,000) and West St. Paul Street (curb, gutter & paving) project (\$150,000). Motion carried 6-3 on roll call vote. Voting No - Alderman Osness, Alderman Van Lieshout and Mayor Woellner.

Motion (Hass/Sabatke) to remove \$40,000 from the Festival Grounds Cattle Barn repair/renovation fund. Motion carried 7-2 on roll call vote. Voting No - Alderman Russell and Alderman Van Lieshout.

Motion (Osness/Hass) to remove the Festival Grounds paving project (\$150,000) from the 2020 capital budget. Motion was defeated 3-6 on roll call vote. Voting Yes - Alderman Hass, Alderman Osness and Alderman Sabatke.

2. Consider budget amendment to approve \$70,000 for street lighting for the M2020-01 Grand Ave. project. At the April 14th Common Council meeting, this item was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Information was in the meeting packet.

Motion (Hass/Van Lieshout) to approve the budget amendment. Motion carried 9-0 on roll call vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 5/13/2020 7:00 PM
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3. Review input from alderpersons on financial response to COVID-19

Information was in the meeting packet, including suggestions from Alderman Hass, Alderman Osness and Alderman Sabatke.

Alderman Hass stated that, at this time, he has no additional comments or suggestions.

Alderman Osness remarked that in favor of minimizing employee overtime as much as possible. He added that one way to do this would be to utilize the City employees not currently working.

Alderman Sabatke noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has put the future of small businesses at risk. He urged the Common Council to help the local merchants as much as possible.

The Small Business Emergency Support Program (approved by the Common Council on April 21st) was discussed.

VI. Adjournment

Motion (Hass/Van Lieshout) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 7:40 P.M.