



CITY OF MERRILL
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES • MONDAY APRIL 27, 2020

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 PM

I. Call to Order

Alderman Russell called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rick Blake	Aldersperson - Third District	Present	
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Present	
Mark Weix	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	

Also in attendance: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Police Chief Corey Bennett, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck (Remote), City Attorney Tom Hayden, Alderman Steve Sabatke, Alderman Mike Rick, Alderman Steve Hass, Information Technology Manager Dustin Brown, Lincoln County Health Department Director Shelly Hersil (Remote), Lincoln County Emergency Management Director September Murphy (Remote), Bob Kort, Mike Caylor and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

II. Nuisance Complaints and Vouchers:

1. Nuisance Complaints

The nuisance complaints summary report was in the meeting packet.

Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck stated that he has nothing new to report at this time.

2. Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Klug answered questions on the vouchers.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

III. Picnic and/or Liquor License Applications:

1. Application from the Lincoln County Rodeo Association Inc. for three temporary Class "B" (picnic) licenses to sell fermented malt beverages at the Merrill Festival Grounds during the Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo, June 12-14, 2020.

A copy of the license application was in the meeting packet.

It was noted that the 2020 rodeo has been cancelled, so there is no need to consider the license application.

City Clerk Heideman has authorized a refund of \$30 to the Lincoln County Rodeo Association Inc.

Alderman Russell reported that the Lincoln County Fair Board will be meeting soon to discuss the status of the 2020 fair.

IV. Other agenda items to consider:

1. COVID-19 Updates:

Lincoln County Health Director Shelley Hersil

Lincoln County Health Department Director Hersil gave a verbal update.

To date, approximately 200 people in the county have been tested. All have been negative to date, but some are still pending. The amount of testing has increased recently.

The “reopening” of the county will be a gradual process.

Lincoln County Emergency Planning Manager September Murphy

Lincoln County Emergency Management Director Murphy reported that various agencies have been cooperating with each other and meeting weekly to discuss and address COVID-19 concerns.

Lincoln County Health Department Director Hersil and Lincoln County Emergency Management Director Murphy then answered questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Until further notice, they will both be invited to attend Health and Safety Committee meetings to provide COVID-19 update reports.

2. Consider reducing alcohol beverages licensing fees in response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Information was in the meeting packet.

Alderman Russell remarked that the bars, particularly those that are not continuing to serve food, have been adversely affected the most by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bob Kort added that the bars lost their revenue source, but they still have bills to pay. Mike Caylor surmised that the “lockdown” of bars could last six months, and suggested that the fee could be decreased by half.

It was noted that there is no minimum fee for a Class “B” license and the minimum fee for a “Class B” license is \$50.

Any fee adjustment would need to be considered in the form of an ordinance by the Common Council.

Motion (Blake/Russell) to decrease for the 2020-2021 license year only, the fee for a Class “B” license from \$100 to zero and the fee for a “Class B” license from \$500 to \$50.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 5/13/2020 7:00 PM
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3. Review 2020-2021 Liquor License Renewal Schedule

A copy of the renewal schedule was in the meeting packet.

City Clerk Heideman stated that this schedule is reviewed annually at the April Health and Safety meeting. He added that this is for information only, and then provided additional verbal information related to the license renewal process.

City Clerk Heideman also suggested that, in light of the of the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline to pay for liquor licenses could be extended from June 15th to July 1st. This would be an internal policy decision and, if approved, no Common Council action would be necessary.

Motion (Blake/Weix) to extend, for 2020 only, the deadline to pay for liquor licenses from June 15th to July 1st.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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V. Monthly Reports:

1. Minutes of February 24, 2020 meeting

The minutes were in the meeting packet.

2. Monthly Reports - Fire Chief Klug

The monthly reports were in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Klug reported on the following:

- Call-back report
- Training opportunities
- Meetings
- COVID-19 issues
- Inspections
- Availability of Personnel Protective Equipment

3. Monthly Reports - Police Chief Bennett

The monthly reports were in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Bennett reported that, at the present time, the Police Department has an adequate supply of Personal Protective Equipment.

Auto crash data is being analyzed in an effort to identify potential hazardous "hot spots".

The officer vacancy in the department has been filled. The new officer is doing well in his position.

4. Monthly Reports - Lincoln County Humane Society

The monthly reports were in the meeting packet.

5. Consider placing monthly reports on file

Motion (Blake/Russell) to place on file.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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VI. Establish date, time and location of next regular meeting

Monday, May 18th, 2020 at 5:15 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

VII. Public Comment Period

None.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion (Blake/Weix) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:11 P.M.