

CITY OF MERRILL
SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING
(ORS 192.640(3))
Wednesday, May 20, 2026 1:00 P.M.
301 E. Second Street Merrill, Oregon 97633

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor Guthrie called the Wednesday, May 20, 2026, Special Business Meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken with the following members of Council and others being present: Mayor Guthrie, Councilor Gatliff, Councilor Baley, Councilor McCollam, Councilor Johnson and City Recorder Hernandez. Others present were: Chief Hoy, Chief Hetherwick, and Jenny Coelho

FLAG SALUTE:

The **Flag Salute** immediately followed with Mayor Guthrie taking the lead.

MAYOR STATEMENT:

Mayor Guthrie asked that everyone please turn cell phones on silence. All meetings are recorded. When addressing the City Council, please speak clearly and state your name.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Guthrie stated the public is invited to provide their comments and opinions to the City Council at this time on issues of concern. Non-emergency issues brought up in this form will not be considered tonight other than in this preliminary discussion, but if found warranted, may be considered at a future meeting of the city council. Public comment is limited to five minutes per person.

No public comment followed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Police Contracting:**
While City Council reviewed the changes to the Police Contract, verbiage regarding monies related to written citations ensued. Chief Hay mentioned that he would require a citation book from the City of Merrill. Chief Hoy stated any action taken outside of Merrill City Limits shall not be hours toward the Police Contract unless the action starts within City Limits. Chief Hetherwick inquired whether the City of Merrill would be held liable when action is taken outside of City Limits should someone decide to sue. Jenny Coelho stated negative; however, if action began within the City Limits, then affirmative. Discussion ensued regarding contract pricing in relation to hiring a qualified full-time officer. Chief Hoy acknowledged chain of command within the City of Merrill; however, he is inflexible when moral standards and equalization of the law are abused. Councilor McCollam affirmed. The “Good Ol’ Boys Club” is over, and the city has zero tolerance. Chief Hoy provided prior examples of unethical requests. Mayor Guthrie requested a time log to satisfy the 40-hour contractual agreement for the public. Chief Hoy stated logging into 911 Dispatch, which can be printed. Councilor Gatliff requested a monthly report. Chief Hoy is agreeable to attending City Council Meetings. Presence is the ultimate goal. Other officers for the City of Tulelake will be allowed to take online courses, while on duty, to become Oregon Certified for future patrols, which is mutually beneficial. Discussion of California patrols ensued. Contractual terms were discussed. Notice of termination is on page 4, section 10. Mayor Guthrie highlighted the need for pedestrian crossing safety due to personal observations. High visibility is needed. Chief Hoy suggested

crosswalk enforcement stings. Jenny Coelho also suggested performing the stings prior to events. Tulelake Police Department Staff could also be present during events. Chief Hoy inquired about proceeding with stickering. Councilor Gatliff highly recommended the stickering for transparency. Councilor Johnson and McCollam were also in favor. Discussion of behaviors and ulterior motives regarding police enforcement that may pose conflicts transpired.

Councilor McCollam stated opposition to the Klamath County Sheriff's Department Contract solely based upon a three-hour minimum, at \$96.00 per hour, that may only take 10-15 minutes to resolve. A Sheriff Deputy lives within City Limits. A motion was made to disregard Klamath County Sheriff's Department Contract. Councilor Baley 2nd the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

To proceed with a background investigation, psychological testing, and medical for Chief Hoy, a motion to approve the contract is required. Debbie Lopez Investigations has agreed to perform the background investigation. Councilor McCollam made a motion to accept the Tulelake Police Contract pending City Attorney review. Councilor Baley 2nd the motion. The motion passed 4-0 in favor,

ORDINANCE:

OTHER – ADDRESS ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

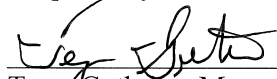
The public is invited to provide their comment and opinion to the City Council at this time on issues of their concern. Non-emergency issues brought up in this forum will not be considered tonight other than in this preliminary discussion, but if found to be warranted, may be considered at a future meeting of the City Council. Public comment is limited to 5 minutes per person.

Councilor McCollam formally resigned from the City Council May 20, 2026 at 1:40 p.m. due to moving outside of City Limits. It has been a pleasure working with City Staff and elected officials. Councilor McCollam suggested the City Council allow the residents of City of Merrill to elect the next Councilor to Position #3.

ADJOURN MEETING:

Councilor Johnson made a motion to adjourn the Wednesday, May 20, 2026 Special Meeting. Councilor Gatliff 2nd the motion. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

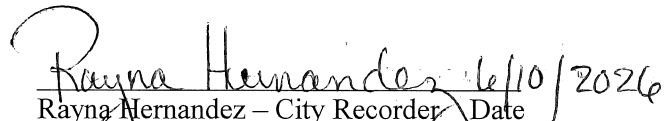
Respectfully Submitted,



Terry Guthrie – Mayor

6/10/26

Date



Rayna Hernandez – City Recorder

6/10/2026

Date

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