

1308150

**City of Merrill
Water & Sewage Disposal Committee
Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.
Basement Conference Room, City Hall, 1004 East First Street**

Members Present (3 of 3): Alderman John Burgener (Chairperson), Alderwoman Kandy Peterson and Alderman Rob Norton.

Others Present: Mayor Bill Bialecki, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Utility Superintendent Kim Kriewald, Finance Director/Treasurer/Comptroller/RDA Secretary Kathy Unertl, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Alderman Dave Sukow, Steve Blake and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A student was in attendance to videotape the meeting for the Cable Access Channel.

Call to order

Alderman Burgener called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Peterson/Norton) to approve the vouchers as presented.
Carried.

Consider water rate increase request study and PSC information

Information was in the meeting packet.

Finance Director/Treasurer/Comptroller/RDA Secretary Unertl reported that the current return on water is currently less than 3%. A water rate increase would be beneficial in order to pay for the debt service (Safe Drinking Water Loan Program), which funded the major water treatment improvements. Finance Director/Treasurer/Comptroller/RDA Secretary Unertl recommends approving the study, to be prepared by John Mayer, at a cost not to exceed \$8,200.

Motion (Norton/Peterson) to approve the preparation of a water rate increase request study, at a cost not to exceed \$8,200. The study would be prepared by John A. Mayer, Utility Rate Consultant. Carried.

Note: Per City Attorney Hayden, no Common Council action on the motion is necessary.

Consider water bill adjustment for Jim Janikowski @ 200 Lake Street

No information related to this request was in the meeting packet. Information was distributed to committee members after the meeting packet has been published, but before the meeting.

On behalf of Jim Janikowski, Ed Miller has requested an adjustment for the water/sewer bill for the service address of 200 Lake Street.

Current City policy allows for a one-time per property, per owner adjustment to bills when leaking toilets and/or broken pipes result in a bill that is 50% or more over the average usage. In this case, an inspection did not reveal any leak(s) or broken pipes.

City Administrator Johnson noted that, if circumstances do not dictate a reduction, the City is under no obligation to approve a reduction. Alderman Burgener responded that one-time reductions have historically been granted.

Motion (Burgener/Norton) to approve, per City policy, a reduction of the water/sewer bill of Jim Janikowski, service address of 200 Lake Street. Per the Water/Sewer department, the amount of the reduction would be \$438.81. Carried.

Note: Per City Attorney Hayden, no Common Council action on the motion is necessary.

Consider water bill adjustment for Steve Blake @ 1005 South Center Avenue

No information related to this request was in the meeting packet. Information was distributed to committee members after the meeting packet has been published, but before the meeting.

Steve Blake has requested an adjustment for the water/sewer bill for the service address of 1005 South Center Avenue. He explained that extensive remodeling is currently being done at that service address. He speculated that the high usage reflected on the bill was caused by a toilet that “hung up” for some time. No leaks were detected.

Motion (Burgener/Norton) to approve, per City policy, a reduction of the water/sewer bill of Steve Blake, service address of 1005 South Center Avenue. Per the Water/Sewer department, the amount of the reduction would be \$497.92. Carried.

Note: Per City Attorney Hayden, no Common Council action on the motion is necessary.

Consider generator equipment at Wastewater Treatment Plant

Information was in the meeting packet.

Utility Superintendent Kriewald reported that the bids were opened on June 27th, 2013. It was expected that bids would be received from three firms, but only Cummins N Power submitted. Their bid was for \$106,900 for a diesel fuel generator and \$153,400 for a natural gas generator.

Becher-Hoppe analyzed the bids and recommends approval of the \$106,900 bid for a diesel fuel generator.

Motion (Norton/Burgener) to approve the base bid of \$153,400 from Cummins N Power for natural gas based engine generator equipment for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Carried.

Note: Per City Attorney Hayden, no Common Council action on the motion is necessary.

Operations Report

The report was in the meeting packet.

Public Comment

None.

Next meeting

Wednesday, August 28th, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

Adjournment

Motion (Peterson/Norton) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk