

1312130

**City of Merrill  
Health and Safety Committee  
Monday, November 18, 2013 at 4:30 P.M.  
City Hall Basement Conference Room, 1004 East First Street**

Voting Members Present (3 of 3): Alderwoman Anne Caylor (Chairperson), Alderwoman Kandy Peterson and Alderman Dave Sukow.

Others Present: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, Fire Chief Dave Savone, Police Captain Corey Bennett, Chris Marion and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

**Call to order**

Alderwoman Caylor called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M.

**Nuisance complaints and exterior maintenance report**

The report was in the meeting packet. Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck reported that there are no new complaints related to health concerns. It was noted that two landlords have generated numerous complaints related to health/safety issues over the last few years. Their properties have also been related to numerous police calls over the last few years.

**Vouchers**

The vouchers were in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone and Police Captain Bennett answered questions related to the vouchers.

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

**Picnic and/or liquor license applications**

None.

### **Schedule public hearing on ordinance allowing the keeping of chickens**

The November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Common Council meeting agenda included an ordinance allowing the keeping of chickens. At that meeting, the Common Council passed a motion referring the ordinance to the Health and Safety Committee and authorized the scheduling of a public hearing on the ordinance.

Alderwoman Caylor suggested that the public be given adequate time and notice as to the date, time and location of the public hearing. This will help insure maximum public input as the ordinance is being considered.

The public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It will be held in the Common Council Chambers at City Hall and will begin at 6:00 P.M.

A hearing notice will be prepared and published in the local media.

### **Continue considering potential steps to address train whistle noise at night**

This has been an ongoing issue.

City Administrator Johnson distributed information on creating new “quiet zones”. He reported that the next steps would include doing research on private crossings and determine who comprises the “Diagnostic Team” cited in the material he distributed.

Alderwoman Caylor suggested the possibility of holding a public hearing/informational meeting on this issue.

It was agreed that there are still many questions to be answered before any decision is made or any formal action is taken.

Alderwoman Caylor suggested that an attempt be made to locate the information that resulted from research already done by Police Lieutenant Dale Bacher.

No action taken at this time.

### **Monthly Report – Fire Chief Savone**

The report was in the meeting packet. Work on the new fire station continues.

### **Monthly Report – Police Chief Neff**

The report was in the meeting packet. Police Captain Bennett reported that the potential candidates for the K-9 officer are currently being reviewed and evaluated. A decision on who will be offered that position is expected in December.

**Monthly Report – Lincoln County Humane Society**

Because the Health and Safety Committee met earlier in the month than normal, the Humane Society meeting has not yet occurred. Therefore, no report was in the meeting packet.

**Place monthly reports on file**

Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to place the monthly reports on file. Carried.

**Schedule next meeting**

If a meeting is held in December, it will be at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Even if a meeting is not held in December, the public hearing on the ordinance allowing the keeping of chickens will be held at 6:00 P.M. that evening.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:03 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC  
City Clerk