

1405150

**City of Merrill
Water & Sewage Disposal Committee
Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 5:00 P.M.
Basement Conference Room, City Hall, 1004 East First Street**

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

Others Present: Mayor Bill Bialecki, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Utility Superintendent Kim Kriewald, Street Commissioner Richard Lupton (arr. 5:15), City Attorney Tom Hayden (arr. 5:18), Alderman Dave Sukow, Dani Boehm, Mark Zulliger and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

Call to order

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

Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

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

Water service for 1201 ½ East Third Street

No information was in the meeting packet.

Dani Boehm, 1201 ½ East Third Street, has been dealing with occurrences of bad water since November, 2013. At that time, a plumber did some flushing, and the utility performed flushing in January and March of 2014. The manganese level in the water was .09 in January and .05 in March. The bad water problem continues.

Utility Superintendent Kriewald reported that another flushing, due to be done the week of May 19th, may help. He stated that he could also use the vactor truck to perform a hydro-excavation, and that procedure, as well as the flushing, may provide additional information as to the source of the problem.

Dani Boehm then asked if payment of a portion of her water bill could be delayed until this situation is resolved.

Motion (Peterson/Burgener) to allow Dani Boehm to pay ½ of her water bill at this time, with the remaining portion of the bill to be addressed after the reason/source of the “bad” water is determined. Carried.

No Common Council action on the motion is necessary.

Review and discuss thawing charges concerning Russ Davis Wholesale

Information was in the meeting packet. Utility Superintendent Kriewald had requested that this item be placed on the agenda.

As a result of severe cold weather, Russ Davis Wholesale hired a private firm to provide thawing at their facility at 1200 Commerce Street. The thawing procedure was performed by Nova Enterprises, Inc., and the snow and ice removal indicated that the frost extended into the street. Based on that, Russ Davis Wholesale is requesting that the utility pay the bill they received from Nova Enterprises, Inc. (\$1,160.50). Also, the City was unable to shut off the water at Russ Davis Wholesale, resulting in flooding at that facility.

Utility Superintendent Kriewald reported that he discussed this incident with the Public Service Commission. They recommended that the utility pay the bill, since it was likely that the Public Service Commission would make that determination anyway.

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Motion (Burgener/Peterson) to pay, from the Utility account, the bill that Russ Davis Wholesale received from Nova Enterprises, Inc. (Invoice #42465, charges of \$1,160.50), for charges related to snow and ice removal in the main water line at Russ Davis Wholesale, 1200 Commerce Street. Carried.

Review and discuss 2013 Public Service Commission Annual Report

The meeting packet included the 2013 report that was prepared and submitted to the Public Service Commission. Utility Superintendent Kriewald noted that the report contains financial information for the utility. He stated that the 2013 rate of return was below the Public Service Commission benchmark, but added that the 2014 rate increase should improve the rate of return. He reminded everyone that this report will be a part of the upcoming 2013 audit report.

No action was necessary, requested or taken.

Review and consider 2015-2019 Utilities Capital Project List

Information was in the meeting packet. Alderman Norton stated that he has concerns that it will be necessary to expend funds soon for maintenance of the two water towers.

It was agreed that the 2018 and 2019 projects listed are very tentative at this time, and could change as circumstances dictate.

No action was taken.

Discussion, recommendation(s) on changes to utility-related ordinances

Five proposed ordinance changes were in the meeting packet. Utility Superintendent Kriewald reported that the changes are being proposed as result of rate changes and/or changes made by the Public Service Commission.

The proposed ordinances are summarized as follows:

1. Amend Chapter 38, Article II, Division 2, Section 38-40, to indicate that the public fire protection service fee would be listed in the licenses and fee schedule in Chapter 16 of the Code of Ordinances.
2. Amend Chapter 38, Article II, Division 2, Section 38-51, to delete language related to remote reading registers (MR-1).
3. Amend Chapter 38, Article IV, Section 38-283 to change the fluoride quantity introduced into the water supply.
4. Amend Chapter 38, Article IV, Section 38-284(b) to eliminate reference to galvanized steel and other substandard piping.
5. Amend Chapter 16, Section 1, to update the fee schedule for Chapter 38-Utilities.

Utility Superintendent Kriewald suggested that, in the ordinance related to fluoride (#3), the quality of fluoride introduced into the water supply system should be approximately .6 to .8 parts of fluoride per million parts of water.

Motion (Peterson/Burgener) to recommend approving the ordinances, including the amendment regarding fluoride quantity proposed at this meeting, and to refer the recommendation to the Common Council. Carried.

The proposed ordinances will be on the May 13th, 2014 Common Council meeting agenda.

Operations Report

The report was in the meeting packet.

Public Comment

Alderman Norton complimented Utility Superintendent Kriewald and the entire utility department for their hard work during the brutal winter weather this year. He asked Utility Superintendent Kriewald to relay that message to all members of the department.

Mayor Bialecki complimented Utility Secretary Angie Holz for her diligence in ensuring that numerous water bills were correct before they will mailed to customers.

Alderwoman Peterson congratulated Kate Drewek and Gabe Steinagel on their continuing education as they strive for additional certification.

Next meeting

Wednesday, May 28th, 2014 at 5:00 P.M.

Adjournment

Motion (Burgener/Peterson) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:41 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk