

1406130

**City of Merrill
Health and Safety Committee
Monday, May 19, 2014 at 4:30 P.M.
City Hall Basement Conference Room, 1004 East First Street**

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

Others Present Included: Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, Fire Chief Dave Savone, Police Chief Ken Neff, Corey Bennett (arr. 5:03), Dale Bacher, James Merkel, Brad Bartelt, Beth Bartelt and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A student was in attendance to videotape the meeting for the Cable Access Channel.

Call to order

Alderman Sukow 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 complaints are being addressed as necessary.

Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

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

“Picnic” Licenses (5) – V.F.W. for Fair

V.F.W. Post 1638 has applied and paid the fee for five temporary Class “B” (picnic) licenses to sell fermented malt beverages at the V.F.W. Fair Stand (Lincoln County Fairgrounds) during the Lincoln County 4-H Free Fair, July 30-August 3, 2014.

Police Chief Neff has no concerns with the applications.

1406131

Motion (Peterson/Malm) to approve the applications from V.F.W. Post 1638 for five temporary Class “B” (picnic) licenses to sell fermented malt beverages at the V.F.W. Fair Stand (Lincoln County Fairgrounds) during the Lincoln County 4-H Free Fair, July 30-August 3, 2014. Carried.

“Picnic” License – V.F.W. for Veteran’s Picnic @ Riverside Park

V.F.W. Post 1638 has applied and paid the fee for a temporary Class “B” (picnic) license to sell fermented malt beverages at Riverside Park during a Veteran’s Picnic on August 24th, 2014.

Police Chief Neff has no concerns with the application.

1406132

Motion (Peterson/Malm) to approve the application from V.F.W. Post 1638 for a temporary Class “B” (picnic) license to sell fermented malt beverages at Riverside Park during a Veteran’s Picnic on August 24th, 2014. Carried.

“Picnic” Licenses (3) – Merrill Firefighter Charities for Softball Tournament

Merrill Firefighters Charities has applied and paid the fee for three temporary Class “B” (picnic) licenses to sell fermented malt beverages at Ott’s Park during the Merrill Firefighters Charities Softball Tournament, August 1-3, 2014.

Police Chief Neff has no concerns with the applications.

1406133

Motion (Malm/Peterson) to approve the applications from Merrill Firefighters Charities for three temporary Class “B” (picnic) licenses to sell fermented malt beverages at Ott’s Park during the Merrill Firefighters Charities Softball Tournament, August 1-3, 2014. Carried.

“Picnic” Licenses (5) – Merrill Alumni Wrestling Club for Fair

The Merrill Alumni Wrestling Club has applied and paid the fee for five temporary Class “B” (picnic) licenses to sell fermented beverages in a fenced-in tent at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds during the Lincoln County 4-H Free Fair, July 30–August 3, 2014. Carried.

Police Chief Neff has no concerns with the applications.

1406134

Motion (Peterson/Malm) to approve the applications from the Merrill Alumni Wrestling Club for five temporary Class “B” (picnic) licenses to sell fermented beverages in a fenced-in tent at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds during the Lincoln County 4-H Free Fair, July 30–August 3, 2014. Carried.

Premise to premises license transfer for New Pine Ridge Restaurant

Kim's of Wisconsin, Qemal Alimi, (d/b/a New Pine Ridge Restaurant), has submitted an application for a premises to premises transfer of their Class "B" (beer) and 'Class B" (liquor) licenses, from 300 South Pine Ridge Avenue to 1302 North Center Avenue, effective on or about June 11th, 2014.

1406135

Motion (Malm/Peterson) to approve the premises to premises transfer of Class "B" (beer) and 'Class B" (liquor) license held by Kim's of Wisconsin, Qemal Alimi, (d/b/a New Pine Ridge Restaurant), from 300 South Pine Ridge Avenue to 1302 North Center Avenue, effective on or about June 11th, 2014. Carried.

2014-2015 Liquor License renewal applications

A list of license applicants was in the meeting packet. City Clerk Heideman reported that all anticipated applications, with the exception of the Gesundheit, have been returned, and that he has no concerns with the applications at this time. Between now and actual renewal time, research will be done to ensure that there are no reasons to deny any licenses or delay any approvals.

Police Chief Neff has no concerns with the applications as submitted. He has been working with several of the licensees on updating and/or clarifying premises descriptions.

1406136

Motion (Peterson/Malm) to approve the 2014-2015 Beer & Liquor Licenses for Class "A", Class "B", "Class A", "Class B", Class "B" and "Class C" Wine, as submitted. All approvals would be contingent upon full compliance with the City of Merrill Code of Ordinances and Chapter 125 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Carried.

Other beer and/or license applications

None.

Request from businesses to close down East Main Street for "block party"

Information was in the meeting packet. Several eastside businesses have signed and submitted a request to close a block of East Main Street (between Poplar Street and Court Street) from 2:00 P.M. to midnight, on Friday, June 20th, 2014, in conjunction with a Main Street Block Party.

Police Chief Neff has no concerns with the request.

1406137

Motion (Malm/Peterson) to approve the request from several businesses to close a block of East Main Street (from Poplar Street to Court Street) from 2:00 P.M. to midnight, for the Main Street Block Party on Friday, June 20th, 2014. Any music associated with the block party is to end by 11:00 P.M., and the street is to be cleaned up and reopened by midnight. Carried.

Consider request from Legend's for premises extension during "block party"

Legend's, 1007 East Main Street, has submitted a request for an extension of premises to sell alcoholic beverages in a fenced-in area outside their establishment on Friday, June 20th, 2014, in conjunction with a Main Street Block Party. As in other years, they are also requested that they be allowed to provide outdoor music for that event.

Police Chief Neff has no concerns with the request.

1406138

Motion (Peterson/Malm) to approve the request from Legends, 1007 East Main Street, for an extension of premises to sell alcoholic beverages in a fenced-in area outside their establishment on Friday, June 20th, 2014, in conjunction with a Main Street Block Party. Outdoor music would also be allowed until 11:00 P.M. Carried.

Ord. amending Chap. 36: Forfeiture amounts for handicapped parking violations

The proposed ordinance amendment was in the meeting packet. Police Chief Neff had requested that it be placed on the meeting agenda.

Police Chief Neff explained that the ordinance amendment would raise forfeiture amounts for handicapped parking violations. Forfeitures would be increased from \$50 to \$150. Late forfeitures would be increased from \$75 to \$300.

The ordinance amendment is necessary due to the recent enactment of a state law establishing minimum forfeitures for handicapped parking violations.

Motion (Malm/Peterson) to recommend approval of the ordinance, and refer that recommendation to the Common Council. Carried.

The proposed ordinance will be on the June 10th, 2014 Common Council meeting agenda.

Discuss non Fire Department employee use of exercise equipment @ fire station

Information was in the meeting packet. Certain City employees not working in the Fire Department have inquired as to the possibility of using the exercise equipment at the new fire station.

Fire Chief Savone explained that he has no problems with this, as long as rules established by the Fire Department are followed. Parameters that would need to be established include the hours when equipment use would be allowed, cleaning up the area after equipment use and responsibility for damaged equipment.

City Administrator Johnson recommends that this usage be authorized within parameters established by the Fire Chief.

Motion (Peterson/Malm) to authorize the use of the exercise equipment at the new fire station by Non-Fire Department City employees, within parameters established by the Fire Chief. Carried.

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

Consider stop/yield signs east/west @ Liberty Street intersections

Information was in the meeting packet.

Alderwoman Peterson had requested that this item be placed on the agenda. She stated that she has received two phone calls expressing safety concerns related to the lack of stop signs or yield signs at the intersections on Liberty Street. She toured the area and determined that, in her opinion, the lack of signs results in potential safety hazards for children, residents and motorists.

Police Chief Neff has done a survey of current sign placement at City intersections. He reported that he has discussed this issue with Street Commissioner Lupton. Police Chief Neff added that, during this discussion, Street Commissioner Lupton expressed concerns that installing these signs could lead to signs be installed at every City intersection.

Beth Bartelt, 613 Liberty Street, stated that the lack of signs poses safety concerns. She noted that other streets in the vicinity of Liberty Street have signs at intersections.

Police Chief Neff recommends that signs be placed at the Liberty Street/West Fourth Street intersection and the Liberty Street/West Fifth Street intersection, and that consideration be given to installing a sign at the intersection at the end of Liberty Street.

Motion (Malm/Peterson) to recommend placing yield and/or stops signs east/west along Liberty Street at intersections, at the discretion of Street Commissioner Lupton and Police Chief Neff, and to refer this recommendation to the Board of Public Works. Carried.

Continue considering potential steps to address train whistle noise at night

This has been an ongoing issue. City Administrator Johnson has been working on this issue, but he was not at the meeting and did not provide any written status report.

No action taken. This item will be on the next regular meeting agenda.

Monthly Report – Fire Chief Savone

The report was in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone reported that the new tender is now in service. The old tender has been sold, and the sale was advantageous for the City. The new rescue squad vehicle is currently being built.

Between 400 and 450 people attended the Fire Department Open House on May 18th. Fire Chief Savone remarked that, during the open house, visitors made several positive comments regarding the new station.

The Fire Department has been awarded a grant of approximately \$34,000 to promote firefighter fitness.

A preliminary meeting to discuss the formation of a Fire Department Explorer Post has been held.

Alderman Peterson stated that she was impressed with the new fire station, and she congratulated the Fire Department on their new home.

Alderman Sukow remarked that he was pleased to see the Police Department presence at the Fire Department Open House.

Alderman Sukow raised the question of whether the committee thinks it is still necessary that the Fire Department Backfill Tracking Log be prepared and included in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone stated that the overtime seems to be under control and the report serves no function. Alderman Peterson added her opinion that there is no reason to produce the report and that Fire Department time could be spent on more worthwhile activities. After discussion, the committee concluded that the report is no longer necessary. They noted that, if it becomes necessary to obtain the information normally included on the report, it could always be provided.

Monthly Report – Police Chief Neff

The report was in the meeting packet. Police Chief Neff reported that Eros, the new canine in the Police Department, has begun work and is averaging one successful “sniff” per “shift” in detecting illegal substances. Eros will be administered his oath of office at the June 10th, 2014 Common Council meeting.

Monthly Report – Lincoln County Humane Society

No report was submitted yet, because the date of the meeting was changed to a later date.

Place monthly reports on file

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

Schedule next meeting

Monday, June 23rd, 2014 at 4:30 P.M.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion (Peterson/Malm) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:24 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk