

1308130

**City of Merrill
Health and Safety Committee
Monday, July 22, 2013 at 5:00 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, Fire Chief Dave Savone, Police Chief Ken Neff, Alderman Steve Hass, Paul Closer, Gail Closer and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck had an excused absence.

Call to order

Alderwoman Caylor called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Nuisance complaints and exterior maintenance report

The report was in the meeting packet. Alderwoman Caylor noted that a couple of the cases are now approaching the 60 day mark.

Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet. Police Chief Neff and Fire Chief Savone answered questions on the vouchers.

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

Picnic license applications (3) from Blastomycosis Fighting Fund for fundraiser

Blastomycosis Fighting Fund, Inc. has submitted applications and paid the fee for three temporary Class "B" (picnic) licenses to sell fermented malt beverages at Ott's Park during a softball tournament/fundraiser, August 23-25, 2013.

Representing Blastomycosis Fighting Fund, Paul and Gail Closer explained that the organization is attempting to raise funds to help pay for costly medications used to treat Blastomycosis in animals. Their goal is to eventually raise \$50,000.

Police Chief Neff stated that, before he would recommend approval, he wants to see and review a plan illustrating how sales of alcohol will be handled and monitored.

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Motion (Peterson/Sukow) to approve the applications from Blastomycosis Fighting Fund for three temporary Class "B" (picnic) licenses to sell fermented malt beverages during a softball tournament/fundraiser at Ott's Park, August 23-25, 2013. Approval would be contingent upon Blastomycosis Fighting Fund submitting an enforcement/compliance plan to the Police Department and upon the Police Chief approving the plan. Carried.

Other beer and/or liquor license applications

None.

Consider authorization to purchase incident command vehicle for Fire Dept.

Information was in the meeting packet.

Fire Chief Savone is requesting authorization to purchase an incident command vehicle at a cost, including equipment, not to exceed \$35,000. Equipment used during a major incident would remain in the vehicle at all times, eliminating the need to transfer equipment during major incidents.

Fire Chief Savone is proposing that the vehicle be purchased using funds from the 2% fire dues account. Fire Chief Savone reported that the account currently has a balance of approximately \$50,000, and that an additional estimated \$20,000 will be added to the account shortly.

Alderman Caylor raised concerns related to the number of incidents in which the vehicle would be used. She said she is hesitant to spend \$35,000 for a vehicle that would be used approximately 15 times annually.

Alderman Peterson raised the possibility of purchasing a vehicle using grant funding. Fire Chief Savone said, as far as grants are concerned, the purchase of incident vehicles is a low priority.

Alderman Caylor and Alderman Sukow stated that they were not comfortable with recommending the purchase at this time. They suggested that the purchase be considered as part of the 2014 budget process, perhaps as part of the capital budget.

Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to refer to the 2014 City budget process. Carried.

Status report and potential steps to address train whistle noise at night

Alderman Sukow had requested that this item be placed on the agenda. This has been an ongoing issue.

Alderman Sukow stated that he continues to receive complaints regarding the train whistle noise during evening hours. City Administrator Johnson stated that he has contacted railroad representatives in Chicago to obtain more information, but to date they have not responded to his request.

It appears that there are two possible solutions at this time. One solution would be to install lights and controls at the two intersections that are currently uncontrolled. This option, however, would be quite costly. The other option would be to close the street at the uncontrolled intersections. A decision to close street(s) would fall under the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Works.

City Administrator Johnson stated that he would again contact railroad representatives to obtain more information. The committee agreed that no action can or should be taken until this additional information is obtained and analyzed.

This item will be placed on the August meeting agenda. No action was taken at this time.

Monthly Report – Fire Chief Savone

The report was in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone gave a verbal mid-year fiscal report.

The new cardiac monitors are now in service. Northcentral Technical College has purchased and picked up the “old” ones.

Fire Chief Savone reported that he has applied for and received several grants to be used for various expenses.

Interviews for the firefighter/paramedic position were conducted earlier in the day. Fire Chief Savone noted that he was impressed with the quality of the candidates.

There was no need for additional manpower during the fair.

Monthly Report – Police Chief Neff

The report was in the meeting packet. Police Chief Neff reported that the department staffing is now back at full-strength.

The Community Night Out is currently being publicized. It will be held at Normal Park on August 7th.

The new squad car is being readied for service.

Monthly Report – Lincoln County Humane Society

The report was in the meeting packet. Alderwoman Peterson answered questions on the report.

Suggestion received by City Administrator re: Licensed golf carts on city streets

City Administrator Johnson stated that he has received a suggestion that the City could increase revenue by allowing and licensing the use of golf carts on city streets. He was told that this had previously been considered and, at that time, it was determined that it would not be practical.

Place monthly reports on file

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

Schedule next meeting

Monday, August 26th, 2013 at 4:30 P.M.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:59 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk