

1309130

**City of Merrill
Health and Safety Committee
Monday, August 26, 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 (arr. 4:41) and Alderman Dave Sukow.

Others Present: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, Fire Chief Dave Savone, Police Chief Ken Neff, Alderman Ryan Schwartzman, Chris Hartwig, Michael Caylor Jr. and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

Call to order

Alderwoman Caylor called the meeting to order at 4:32 P.M.

Nuisance complaints and exterior maintenance report

The report was in the meeting packet. Alderman Sukow noted that there have been issues at 403 East Street since 2010, and he hopes that all issues related to that property are resolved soon.

Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

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

Beer and/or liquor license applications

None.

Discussion was held on a pending Class "B" (beer) and "Class B" (liquor) license application. That application will be considered at the September Health and Safety Committee meeting.

Consider adding area #10 to areas where bow-hunting is allowed

Information was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Neff had requested that this item be placed on the agenda. He reported that he is proposing the inclusion of an additional area (designated as area #10) as an animal nuisance area in which bow and arrow deer hunting would be allowed.

Area #10 is an area near the F-M Enterprise facility (former site of Ward Paper Mill). Police Chief Neff explained that initially the property owners were not in favor of hunting in that area, but they have since changed their mind and would now allow hunting in that area. It is a parcel of land bordered by Ninth Street on the south, Mill Street on the east, the north city limit line on the north and following the Section 2 line to Pier Street on the west. Police Chief Neff distributed a map which illustrated area #10.

Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to adopt the resolution designating area #10 as an animal nuisance area and allowing bow and arrow deer hunting within area #10. Carried.

The proposed resolution will be on the September 10th, 2013 Common Council agenda.

Continue considering potential steps to address train whistle noise at night

This has been an ongoing issue. Alderman Sukow expressed frustration that, although these concerns have been discussed for some time, little has been done to resolve the issue.

City Administrator Johnson reported that a form must be completed and submitted before railroad officials will even discuss the issue. He explained that it is necessary to include the crossing number(s) on the form, and at this point he did not know the numbers of the crossings. Michael Caylor Jr. reported that Lincoln County has a list of the crossings and numbers, and that he would provide Police Chief Neff with that list. City Administrator Johnson replied that a list would expedite the completion and subsequent submission of the necessary form.

The possibility of designating a “quiet zone” was discussed.

No action was taken at this time. This item will be on the September Health and Safety Committee meeting agenda.

Monthly Report – Fire Chief Savone

The report was in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone reported that the new firefighter has started work on August 26th. As a result of the new hire, the Fire Department is now fully-staffed.

Work on the new fire station continues.

Monthly Report – Police Chief Neff

The report was in the meeting packet. Police Chief Neff reported that sound testing at the Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Public Safety Center for Excellence has begun.

Advertising for prospective candidates for the Merrill Police Auxiliary Unit has begun.

Police Chief Neff distributed information on a social networking opportunity called Nextdoor. It will be formally introduced as part of a “Town Hall” meeting scheduled to be held in the Common Council Chambers on September 16th. Police Chief Neff is confident that it will prove to be a valuable communications tool.

Labor Day Parade plans are being finalized.

Monthly Report – Lincoln County Humane Society

The 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

Monday, September 23rd, 2013 at 4:30 P.M.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:08 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk