

1310130

**City of Merrill
Health and Safety Committee
Monday, September 23, 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 Chief Ken Neff, Alderman Ryan Schwartzman, Jared Schmidt, Fredrick Juan, Dale Bacher, Michael Caylor Jr. and City Clerk Bill Heideman. For a portion of the meeting, a student was in attendance to videotape the meeting for the Cable Access Channel.

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. It was noted that a few new complaints have been received.

Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone answered questions related to the vouchers.

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

Liquor license application for 1212 Sports Lounge

1212 Sports Lounge, Jared Lee Schmidt, Agent, has applied and paid the fee for a Class "B" (beer) license and a "Class B" (liquor) license for 1212 Sports Lounge, 1212 South Center Avenue, effective October 1st, 2013.

Alderman Sukow stated that he has concerns regarding the application. He noted that the establishment is already advertising the business as the 1212 Sports Lounge, when the license for the name has not been approved yet.

Currently, the business is operating under the license of the current licensee at that address (Back to Eden Restaurant, LLC, Frederick W. E. Piepenbrok, Agent, for The Arena). Alderman Sukow explained that a license is a privilege, not a right, and that this advertising, including postings on social media, is premature, since no license for 1212 Sports Lounge has been approved.

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Motion (Peterson/Caylor) to approve the application from 1212 Sports Lounge, Jared Lee Schmidt, Agent, for a Class “B” (beer) license and a “Class B” (liquor) license for 1212 Sports Lounge, 1212 South Center Avenue, effective October 1st, 2013. Carried.

Liquor license application for Los Meszcales

Wisconsin Inc., Fredrick B. Juan, Agent, has applied for a Class “B” (beer) license and a Reserve “Class B” (liquor) license for Los Meszcales, 3340 East Main Street, effective November 1st, 2013.

Prior to the meeting, Fredrick Juan informed City Clerk Heideman that Wisconsin Inc. would like to amend the application by changing the agent. Based on that information, and because the application was published with Fredrick Juan as the agent, the Committee decided to take no action at this time.

Alderwoman Caylor stated that she would bring the application directly to the October 8th, 2013 Common Council meeting, after a final decision on the agent has been made and all publishing requirements have been met.

Other beer and/or liquor license applications

None. City Clerk Heideman reported that a change of agent application for Kwik Trip was received the day of the meeting. It will be considered at the October meeting.

Continue considering potential steps to address train whistle noise at night

This has been an ongoing issue. City Administrator Johnson reported that he has made some progress on this issue. He has accessed a website which provides information on railroad crossings. He reported that much of the information regarding the City of Merrill crossings is not accurate and/or not current. He will submit updated information and then wait for a response from the railroad. City Administrator Johnson will continue to work on this.

This item will continue to appear on monthly agendas, as efforts continue to resolve the issue.

Monthly Report – Fire Chief Savone

The report was in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone reported that union negotiations are ongoing. Discussions with townships for ambulance services are also ongoing. The new firefighter/EMT seems to be working well. Construction of the new fire station is still on schedule.

Fire Chief Savone addressed a question from Alderwoman Caylor regarding the Fire Department webpage.

Alderwoman Caylor remarked that it appears, based on the call-in log included in the meeting packet, that sufficient replacements are reporting for duty when extra staff is called in. She was curious as to response times.

Monthly Report – Police Chief Neff

The report was in the meeting packet. Police Chief Neff reported that the crime prevention initiative seems to be going well.

Police Chief Neff stated that it appears that Nextdoor.com will be a valuable tool for communicating information via social media.

The Police Department is working with Merrill High School on the formation of a student academy. At this time, it is anticipated that the academy will be operating in October.

Police Chief Neff was pleased to report that Officer Mark Heckendorf has returned to work after being injured recently.

Monthly Report – Lincoln County Humane Society

City Clerk Heideman stated that the report was received the day of the meeting. It will be included in the October meeting packet.

Place monthly reports on file

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

Schedule next meeting

Monday, October 28th, 2013 at 4:30 P.M.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:14 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk