

1311130

**City of Merrill
Health and Safety Committee
Monday, October 28, 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, Alderman Rob Norton, Jo Van Lieshout, Jamie Kalvestran, Jody Engel, Lynn Zentner (arr. 4:38), Michael Caylor Jr. and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

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. Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck noted that concerns are being addressed as necessary. Several of the recent complaints are the result of conflicts between neighbors.

Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone answered several questions related to the vouchers. On a question related to badges, he will report back to the committee at a future meeting.

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

Picnic and/or liquor license applications

None.

Change of agent application from Kwik Trip

Kwik Trip Inc. has submitted a change of agent application and paid the change of agent fee.

They are requesting that Heather E. Timm be named the agent at Kwik Trip #386, 2311 East Main Street. A copy of the application was included in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Neff has no concerns with the application.

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Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to approve the change of agent application from Kwik Trip Inc., appointing Heather E. Timm as agent at Kwik Trip #386, 2311 East Main Street. Carried.

Consider ordinance allowing the keeping of fowl

A copy of the proposed ordinance was in the meeting packet.

The ordinance was introduced directly by Alderman Norton at the October 8th, 2013 Common Council meeting. At that meeting, the ordinance was referred to the Health and Safety Committee.

The ordinance would allow the keeping of various fowl within the City, under certain conditions. The maximum number of animals allowed would be three.

Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck reported that he was not in favor of the ordinance, but that it was not his decision to make.

Alderman Norton distributed copies of various ordinances from neighboring municipalities that allow the keeping of fowl. It was noted that the proposed ordinance does not allow keeping roosters.

Alderman Norton stated that Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel has no concerns related to the ordinance. Alderwoman Caylor responded that she would like to see that opinion expressed by Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel in writing.

Alderwoman Caylor stated that she would like to see some type of public information meeting held before any final decision on the ordinance. She has concerns related to keeping other types of fowl besides chickens, citing doves and pigeons.

Alderman Sukow stated that he did not see a major problem with the ordinance, as long as the fowl were kept enclosed and the number of fowl was limited to three.

Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to recommend adopting the ordinance, with the following amendments:

1. Only the keeping of chickens would be permitted, keeping other types of fowl would not be permitted. The maximum number of chickens allowed would be three.
2. No application for keeping chickens would be approved without prior approval in writing, from the abutting property owner(s).

Motion to recommend adopting the ordinance carried.

The ordinance, as amended will be on the November 12th, 2013 Common Council meeting agenda.

Continue considering potential steps to address train whistle noise at night

This has been an ongoing issue.

City Administrator Johnson reported that he has done some research related to potential costs for installing a crossing arm and lights. The estimated cost of the equipment alone is \$125,000, while the total cost of installation, including associated roadwork, is estimated at \$250,000.

Alderswoman Caylor noted that, some time ago, the Police Department did research on various options available to address this issue. She suggested attempting to locate and analyze that information.

Alderman Sukow stated that the installation of equipment seems to be cost-prohibitive at this time.

City Administrator Johnson stated that he will continue to research this issue as well as continue discussing it with Mayor Bialecki.

No action taken at this time.

Monthly Report – Fire Chief Savone

The report was in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone reported that construction of the new fire station is proceeding, and that waterproofing of it will be done soon. If any committee members would like to tour the new station, they should contact the Fire Department to schedule a tour.

An exhibit on the history of the Merrill Fire Department is currently on display at the Merrill Historical Society.

The backfill tracking log was discussed. Alderwoman Caylor and Fire Chief Savone will meet to discuss this further.

Monthly Report – Police Chief Neff

The report was in the meeting packet. Police Chief Neff reported that, through the generosity of the Bierman Foundation, there are now sufficient fund to begin the Merrill Police Department K9 Program. Public donations will continue to be accepted to help fund the program. Police Chief Neff stated that he is optimistically hoping to get the program up and running by the spring of 2014, but a more realistic start time is the summer of 2014.

To date, six applications for the Merrill Police Academy have been received. Police Chief Neff is pleased with the quality of the applications received.

Monthly Report – Lincoln County Humane Society

The reports for both September and October were in the meeting packet.

Place monthly reports on file

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

Schedule next meeting

Monday, November 18th, 2013 at 4:30 P.M.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion (Peterson/Sukow) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:37 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk