

1401130

**City of Merrill
Health and Safety Committee
Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Common Council Chambers, 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, Alexandre Vinokourov, Dan Marzu, Michael Caylor Jr., Duane Pfister, Renlee Schwartzman and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A student was in attendance to videotape the meeting for the Cable Access Channel.

Attendees at the public hearing portion of the meeting included City Attorney Tom Hayden, Alderman Steve Hass, Carl Jackson, Jamie Kalvestran, Sandy Stoneman and Leo Leiskau.

Call to order

Alderwoman Caylor called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Nuisance complaints and exterior maintenance report

The report was in the meeting packet. Alderwoman Caylor noted that there are a few new cases pending in court. Police Chief Neff reported that one of those cases has already been resolved.

Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone answered questions and addressed concerns related to a projector purchase.

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

Picnic license application from Merrill Rotary – Artisan Showcase

The Merrill Rotary has filed an application and paid the fee for a temporary Class “B” (picnic) license to sell wine at the Merrill Artisan Showcase at Bell Tower, 1500 O’Day Street, on February 8th, 2014.

Police Chief Neff reported that this is an annual event and that he has no concerns with the application.

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Motion (Peterson/Sukow) to approve the application from the Merrill Rotary for a temporary Class "B" (picnic) license to sell wine at the Merrill Artisan Showcase at Bell Tower, 1500 O'Day Street, on February 8th, 2014. Carried.

Premises to premises license transfer application from Wal-Mart

Wal-Mart Stores East, LP has filed an application and paid the fee for a premises-to-premises transfer of their Class "A" (beer) and "Class A" (liquor) licenses, from 3500 East Main Street to 505 South Pine Ridge Avenue, effective on or about March 1st, 2014.

Police Chief Neff has no concerns with the transfer request.

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Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to approve the application from Wal-Mart Stores East, LP, for premises-to-premises transfer of their Class "A" (beer) and "Class A" (liquor) licenses, from 3500 East Main Street to 505 South Pine Ridge Avenue, effective on or about March 1st, 2014. Carried.

Blue Jay Taxi renewal of taxicab business license for 2014

Blue Jay Taxi, LLC has filed an application and paid the fee to renew their taxicab business license for 2014.

Police Chief Neff reported that Blue Jay Taxi is in full compliance and that he has no concerns with the renewal application.

Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to approve the application from Blue Jay Taxi, LLC for renewal of their taxicab business license for 2014. Carried.

Note: No Common Council action on the motion is necessary.

Resolution authorizing Mutual Aid Agreement with NCERT

Police Chief Neff had requested that this item be placed on the agenda. He reported that he has been discussing this agreement with several area Police Chiefs.

The program would be based on a system currently in place in the southeastern part of the state. He explained that adoption of the resolution would be the first step in a lengthy process.

Motion (Peterson/Sukow) to recommend approving the resolution authorizing a Mutual Aid Agreement with North Central Emergency Response Team. Carried.

The proposed resolution will be on the January 14th, 2014 Common Council meeting agenda.

Monthly Report – Fire Chief Savone

The report was in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone answered questions from Alderwoman Caylor related to the Backfill Tracking Log.

Monthly Report – Police Chief Neff

The report was in the meeting packet. Police Chief Neff reported that they are planning of having a K-9 officer in place by late spring or early summer of 2014.

Monthly Report – Lincoln County Humane Society

Alderwoman Peterson reported that the Lincoln County Humane Society Board did not have a quorum at their meeting. Therefore, no report was submitted this month.

Place monthly reports on file

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

Schedule next meeting

Monday, January 27th, 2014 at 4:30 P.M.

Recess

At 5:53 P.M., Alderwoman Caylor announced that a recess would be taken until 6:00 P.M., the time scheduled for the public hearing.

Call meeting back to order

Alderwoman Caylor called the meeting back to order at 6:00 P.M.

Public hearing on ordinance allowing the keeping of chickens

City Clerk Heideman read the public hearing notice. Alderwoman Caylor explained the procedures that will be in place during the public hearing.

Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to open the public hearing. Carried.

The public hearing began at 6:04 P.M.

Jamie Kalvestran spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance. She provided six reasons why, in her opinion, chickens belong in backyards. She addressed some concerns that people have. She then read letters from Dr. Laurie Wolf and Dr. Aldin, a local veterinarian.

Lincoln County Agriculture Dev. Educator Dan Marzu distributed information and provided some tips on the keeping of chickens.

Leo Leiskau stated that, if the ordinance is adopted, he would be willing to help inspect the coops.

Alderman Steve Hass raised concerns related to parasites, predators and diseases. He stated his opinion that adopting the ordinance would be a mistake. He asked whether a building permit would be required for a chicken coop, and, if so, who is going to inspect the coops. He also asked who would be responsible for overseeing the selling of eggs from homes. He also asked who would inspect the chickens, since the City does not have a veterinarian on staff.

Leo Leiskau addressed some of the concerns raised by Alderman Hass. Dan Marzu also spoke on the selling of eggs.

Alderman Rob Norton spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance. He stated that he had contacted several area Police Chiefs to obtain statistics on the number of complaints related to chickens. In his opinion, the number of complaints was minimal.

Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to close the public hearing. Carried.

Alderwoman Peterson stated that she could see both sides on this issue.

Alderman Sukow stated that he did not receive any phone calls on this issue. He did receive one e-mail from a resident who is in favor of the ordinance. Alderman Sukow reported that he won't personally be keeping chickens. He stated his opinion that there are still some questions related to the ordinance that must be answered, but that he has no problems with the ordinance at this time.

No action was necessary, requested or taken at this time.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion (Sukow/Peterson) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:38 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk