

1403120

**City of Merrill
Board of Public Works
Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Common Council Chambers, 1004 East First Street**

Members Present (5 of 5): Mayor Bill Bialecki (Chairperson), Street Commissioner Richard Lupton, Alderman Steve Hass, Alderman John Burgener and Alderman Chris Malm.

Others Present Included: City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Hall Maintenance Supervisor Ramona Vanderkam, Police Chief Ken Neff, Alderman Dave Sukow, Alderwoman Kandy Peterson, Rod Akey (Akey Engineering Service), Dan Novitch, Sister Peggy Jackelen, Kevin Carstensen, Duane Pfister and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

Call to order

Mayor Bialecki called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Hass/Burgener) to approve the vouchers, as presented. Carried.

Consider request for “Children at Play” sign on Oregon Street

This request was initially discussed at the January 22nd, 2014 Board of Public Works meeting, at the request of Alderman Sukow. At that meeting, City Attorney Hayden was directed to research the potential liability ramifications of placing these types of signs.

City Attorney Hayden distributed information from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, related to “Children At Play” warning signs. The summary of the report stated that there is no evidence that special warning signs of this sort reduce driver speeds or crash rates.

Motion (Hass/Burgener) to table. Carried.

Continue discussion on potential collection of fluorescent light bulbs

This item was initially discussed at the January 22nd, 2014 Board of Public Works meeting, at the request of Mayor Bialecki.

Street Commissioner Lupton reported that Batteries Plus in Wausau is the only company he could locate that accepts these types of light bulbs. It was mentioned that the landfill can accept them from residents, but not from businesses.

Motion (Hass/Burgener) to table. Carried.

Consider bids on Taylor Street reconstruction project

Information was distributed at the meeting. The bids were opened at 2:00 P.M. on February 26th, in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Rod Akey reported that three bids were received. The lowest bid of \$212,496 was from Peterson Brothers Sand and Gravel.

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Motion (Hass/Burgener) to approve the bid from Peterson Brothers Sand and Gravel (\$212,496) on the Taylor Street reconstruction project. Carried.

Consider garbage/recycling collection @ Bell Tower

Mayor Bialecki had requested that this item be placed on the agenda.

Representing Bell Tower, Sister Peggy Jackelen has inquired as to whether it may be possible to have garbage and/or recycling collection at the Bell Tower Residence, 1500 O'Day Street. Currently, there is no City collection there because the road is considered a "private" road.

Street Commissioner Lupton mentioned that the Street Department currently does collection at some churches.

Sister Peggy Jackelen mentioned that Bell Tower is primarily interested in collection of recyclable collection. She noted that a vendor picks up cardboard as a recyclable. She stated that Bell Tower typically has a large volume of plastic, but she is unsure of the exact amount.

Street Commissioner Lupton will contact Bell Tower officials to determine an estimated volume, before any decision is made.

No action was taken at this time. This item will be placed on the March Board of Public Works meeting agenda.

Consider garbage/recycling collection @ Thielman Street condos

Garbage/recycling collection at the condominiums on Thielman Street was then discussed. It was mentioned that, although the residents there are City taxpayers, they are not receiving the benefits of all City services. Street Commissioner Lupton stated that the department could probably do collection there, but that it is sometimes difficult to determine the “owner” of some of the refuse.

Garbage/recycling collection on Thielman Street was then discussed. It was mentioned that, although the residents there are City taxpayers, they are not receiving the benefits of all City services. Street Commissioner Lupton stated that the department could probably do collection there, but that it is sometimes difficult to determine the “owner” of some of the refuse.

City Attorney Hayden was directed to prepare an ordinance for consideration at the March meeting. The ordinance is to include language that absolves the City of any responsibility if the City does collecting on private roads. The ordinance will also be discussed with an attorney who represents the Condominium Associations in that area.

Public Hearing (6:00 P.M.) - 2014 sidewalk maintenance project

City Attorney Hayden read the public hearing notice.

Motion (Hass/Malm) to open the public hearing. Carried.

Nobody spoke for or against the 2014 Sidewalk Maintenance project.

Motion (Hass/Malm) to close the public hearing. Carried.

Per City Attorney Hayden, no Common Council action is necessary. No action was taken.

Discuss installing sidewalk on Memorial Drive, from East Sixth Street

City Administrator Johnson had requested that this item be placed on the agenda, per a request from Alderman Burgener. City Administrator Johnson distributed a map of the area of the proposed sidewalk project.

City Administrator Johnson stated that, although sidewalk in this area has been considered previously, it is time to revisit this issue. He is in favor of installing the sidewalk, citing pedestrian safety concerns.

Alderman Burgener stated that he submitted this request to City Administrator Johnson at the request of a resident. Alderman Burgener is in favor of the sidewalk installation.

Alderman Malm also spoke in favor of the sidewalk installation. He will work with City staff to formulate a project plan.

No action was taken at this time.

Discuss parking on Park Street, south of East Main Street

Alderman Hass had requested that this item be placed on the agenda.

Alderman Hass stated that he requested this in response to discovering that someone was issued a ticket for an odd-even parking violation on Park Street. Alderman Hass recommends that, since this area resembles a business district, it should be listed in the ordinance as a business district and parking should be allowed in the area.

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel reported that the area is zoned as business down to the railroad tracks. Police Chief Neff responded that this area is not included in the ordinance as being excluded from parking restrictions.

Motion (Hass/Malm) to amend the ordinance related to parking to allow parking on Park Street, for one-half block each way from the intersection with East Main Street. Parking would be allowed for four hours, on both sides of the street, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Appropriate signage would be installed in the spring when weather permits. Carried.

An ordinance on the motion will be prepared and included on the March 11th, 2014 Common Council meeting agenda.

Discussion, possible recommendation on garbage/recycling rules

Street Commissioner Lupton had requested that this item be placed on the agenda. He distributed a copy of the new proposed rules. He noted that the limits on the number of bags are somewhat lower.

Alderman Hass suggested that, to increase public awareness of the new rules, they be posted on the City website. Street Commissioner Lupton will contact the radio station and other local media to help inform the public of the proposed new rules.

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

Monthly report - Street Commissioner

The report was in the meeting packet. Street Commissioner Lupton reported that the Street Department has kept busy dealing with winter and cold weather issues. The Street Department is assisting the Water Utility as necessary and requested on many of the same issues.

Monthly report – Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator

The report was in the meeting packet. Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel reported that the severe weather has exposed several issues related to weak roofs.

Monthly report – City Hall Maintenance Supervisor

The report was in the meeting packet.

Monthly report from contracted engineering firms

No report(s) submitted.

Next meeting

Wednesday, March 19th, 2014 at 5:30 P.M.

Public Comment

Alderman Sukow spoke in favor of installing sidewalk on Memorial Drive in order to “err on the side of safety”.

Citing safety issues, Dan Novitch also spoke in favor on the sidewalk installation on Memorial Drive.

Adjournment

Motion (Hass/Malm) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:42 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk