

1407130

**City of Merrill
Health and Safety Committee
Monday, June 23, 2014 at 4:30 P.M.
City Hall Basement Conference Room, 1004 East First Street**

Voting Members Present (3 of 3): Alderman Dave Sukow (Chairperson), Alderwoman Kandy Peterson and Alderman Chris Malm.

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

Call to order

Alderman Sukow 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 the majority of the issues on the report are ongoing. He suggested that steps be taken to ensure that the incidents that are to be addressed through the municipal court system actually get scheduled in court. Ongoing concerns on one issue were reviewed.

Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet. Police Chief Neff answered questions related to the vouchers.

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

“Picnic” Licenses (5) – Eagles for Fair

The Fraternal Order of Eagles has applied and paid the fee for five temporary Class “B” (picnic) licenses to sell fermented beverages at the Eagles Fair Stand (Lincoln County Fairgrounds) during the Lincoln County Fair, July 30-August 3, 2014. Information was in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Neff has no concerns with the application.

1407131

Motion (Peterson/Malm) to approve the applications from the Fraternal Order of Eagles for five temporary Class "B" (picnic) licenses to sell fermented malt beverages in the Eagles Fair Stand (Lincoln County Fairgrounds) during the Lincoln County Fair, July 30-August 3, 2014. Carried.

Other beer and/or license applications

None.

Pawnbroker license application from Park City Pawn

Park City Pawn (Jason A. Ratzlaff) has applied and paid the fee for a pawnbroker license for Park City Pawn, 1319 East Main Street.

Police Chief Neff noted that the Common Council recently adopted an ordinance related to pawn shops. This is the first pawn store license application received. Actually, Park City Pawn is already legally operating, because they opened for business prior to the adoption of the pawn shop ordinance.

Police Chief Neff reported that all background checks and related procedures have been completed, and that there are no concerns related to the application. The ordinance requires that pawn shops use an online tracking system for all transactions. Pawn City Pawn is currently implementing that system. Police Chief Neff stated his opinion that, by the time of the next Common Council meeting, all necessary procedures will be in place, as required by the ordinance.

Alderman Ryan Schwartzman spoke in favor of approving the application.

1407132

Motion (Malm/Peterson) to approve the pawnbroker license application from Park City Pawn (Jason A. Ratzlaff), 1319 East Main Street, contingent upon compliance with the City of Merrill Code of Ordinances Chapter 8, as it relates to pawn shops. Carried.

Request to discuss Fire Department Mutual Aid agreement

This agenda item was requested by Pine River Town Chairperson Bill Zeitz.

Fire Chief Savone reviewed the City's involvement with a mutual aid organization titled Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). On July 9th, 2013, the Common Council adopted Resolution #2308, which approved City participation in MABAS.

Fire Chief Savone stated that he was pleased with MABAS and he hoped that the City would continue membership and participation in it.

Bill Zeitz noted that a discussion of MABAS was not on the meeting agenda. He stated that his agenda request involved a desire to discuss a recent incident involving the City fire department and the Town of Pine River fire department. In the early morning of June 1st, 2014, a home in the Town of Merrill was struck by lightning and a fire ensued. The City fire department requested mutual aid from the Town of Pine River fire department. This led to concerns from Town of Pine River fire department members and citizens that Town of Pine River volunteer firefighters are being called instead of City firefighters. Mr. Zeitz also noted that an article on this fire in the Merrill Courier did not mention that the Town of Pine River fire department had been called. Fire Chief Savone responded that it was an oversight on his part that the call to and participation by the Town of Pine River fire department was not mentioned in the article.

Michael Caylor Jr. stated that, in his opinion, the City of Merrill Fire Department does an excellent job of splitting up mutual aid. However, he has some concerns related to the current system. Fire Chief Savone responded that the City of Merrill Fire Department “embraces” volunteer departments and volunteer firefighters, and that everyone works together for a common cause.

Bill Zeitz stated that the Town of Pine River has not yet approved MABAS, due to several concerns. The Town of Pine River is in favor of mutual aid, but is apprehensive about a potential loss of local control.

No action was taken.

Continue considering potential steps to address train whistle noise at night

This has been an ongoing issue. City Administrator Johnson has been working on this issue. He reviewed the fact that the committee would like some type of “quiet zone” established, even if it does not include all areas of the City in which the trains pass. City Administrator Johnson reported that, if the “quiet zone” were established, the crossing on Fifth Street would have to be removed, at 100% cost to the City. It was noted that this work could potentially be performed by the Street Department. The suggested area for the “quiet zone” was from Pier Street to the area of the Cosmo Theatre.

City Administrator Johnson distributed a form that would be required to be completed and submitted to the railroad prior to establishing a “quiet zone”. Traffic counts would need to be taken and submitted to the railroad as well.

The committee reiterated their position that they would like to see some type of “quiet zone” established. No action was taken at this time. This item will continue to appear on Health and Safety Committee meeting agendas.

Monthly Report – Fire Chief Savone

The report was in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone thanked those who attended the recent firefighter memorial dedication.

Monthly Report – Police Chief Neff

The report was in the meeting packet. Police Chief Neff reported that the bicycle patrol is again operating, but will be used only when the staffing level is sufficient. Officer Jamie Jaeger has been awarded the State of Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, by the Eagles. Eros, the police department K-9, continues to be a valuable addition to the department.

Monthly Report – Lincoln County Humane Society

No report was submitted to the City Clerk's office this month. A monthly report was e-mailed to Alderman Sukow, who will contact the Humane Society to ensure that future reports are submitted to the City Clerk's office.

Place monthly reports on file

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

Schedule next meeting

Monday, July 28th, 2014 at 4:30 P.M.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion (Peterson/Malm) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:27 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk