

1412130

**City of Merrill
Health and Safety Committee
Monday, November 17, 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 (dep. 4:55), Fire Chief Dave Savone, Police Captain Corey Bennett, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Alderman Ryan Schwartzman, Greg Hartwig, 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 reported and led discussion on the following cases: 201 North Mill Street, 509 ½ East Seventh Street and 403 East Street.

Vouchers

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

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

Picnic and/or liquor license applications

None.

Parking regulations on State and Cottage Streets, between Main St. & Grand Ave.

Street Commissioner Lupton and Police Chief Neff had requested that this item be placed on the agenda.

Police Captain Bennett reported that, in light of the fact that truck traffic is now prohibited on Taylor Street, designating other truck routes is being considered. Such designations may necessitate the changing of parking regulations in some areas. One of the areas is State and Cottage Streets, between Main Street and Grand Avenue.

After discussion it was agreed that, until the Board of Public Works makes decisions on truck routes, it would be premature for the Health and Safety Committee to make any parking recommendations. Therefore, no action was taken at this time.

Ordinances re: snowmobile and ATV operation within City limits

Alderman Sukow had placed this item on the agenda.

The current City ordinances related to the operation of snowmobile/ATV operation within the City do not correspond to the current trail designations. Also, several municipalities now allow snowmobile, ATV and UTV operations on all streets within their municipality. Based on these facts, Alderman Sukow and Police Chief Neff are requesting that the ordinances related to operations of these types of vehicles be reviewed and amended. The current ordinances were in the meeting packet.

Police Chief Neff has suggested that when amending the ordinances, the streets on which operation is prohibited should be designated, rather than listing the streets on which operation is allowed.

Alderman Sukow suggested that proof of liability insurance should be required when operating these types of vehicles in the City. Alderman Schwartzman replied that he would not be in favor of making the City ordinances more restrictive than the county regulations, since this may discourage City tourism/commerce. City Attorney Hayden disagreed with Alderman Schwartzman and stated that, in his opinion, proof of liability insurance should be required.

Police Captain Bennett reminded everyone that adherence to state laws must be considered when addressing this issue.

Alderman Sukow directed the Police Department to prepare a list of streets on which traversing via snowmobile, ATV or UTV should be prohibited. This list will then be presented for consideration at the December meeting, as part of a public informational period. This period would also allow public input on this matter.

No formal action was taken at this time.

Consider adding license requirement for escort services

Police Chief Neff had requested that this item be placed on the agenda.

During their monitoring of social media sites, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department and the Merrill Police Department have discovered instances of individuals within the City offering escort services. Based on this, the Police Department requested that a licensing policy and fee schedule for escort services be prepared for consideration. The ability to license escort services would be a tool for the Police Department to identify individuals and/or establishments offering escort services.

A proposed license application was in the meeting packet. The meeting packet also included an ordinance to add escort and escort services regulations and an ordinance adding an escort services application and license fee requirements. These documents are based on current policies/ordinances in effect in the City of Wausau.

Alderman Malm asked whether the Police Department had any information or data from the City of Wausau. Police Captain Bennett replied that he was not aware of any information, but that the Police Department could certainly ask for such information.

After discussion, it was decided that all agenda items related to escort services will be considered further at the December meeting. No action was taken at this time.

Ordinance amending Chapter 8 to add escort and escort services

This item will be considered at the December meeting (see above).

Ordinance amendment to add escort services application and licensing fees

This item will be considered at the December meeting (see above).

Monthly Report – Fire Chief Savone

The report was in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone reported that the Fire Department is working on issues and policies related to Ebola.

Monthly Report – Police Chief Neff

The report was in the meeting packet. Police Captain Bennett verbally made one correction to statistics in the monthly report. He announced that the Police Department has been notified that they have been awarded a \$4,000 Department of Transportation grant.

Monthly Report – Lincoln County Humane Society

Because the Health and Safety Committee met earlier than normal this month, the Lincoln County Humane Society monthly report has not yet been submitted.

Place monthly reports on file

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

Schedule next meeting

Monday, December 22nd, 2014 at 4:30 P.M. As noted earlier, the meeting will include a public information/input session to discuss snowmobile, ATV and UTV operations in the City.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion (Malm/Peterson) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:19 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk