

1501130

**City of Merrill  
Health and Safety Committee  
Monday, December 22, 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: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck (dep. 5:03), Fire Chief Dave Savone, Police Chief Ken Neff, Street Commissioner Richard Lupton, Alderman Ryan Schwartzman, Kortney Pike, Kurt Helmstadter, Joyce Helmstadter, Laurie Swope, Angie Drew, Paul Waid, Matt Waid, Kevin Kleinschmidt, William Schult, Dan Adamec, Robert Knoop, Jon Drew, Chris Nienow, Brian Severt 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 that there are no new complaints and the existing complaints are being addressed as necessary.

**Vouchers**

The vouchers were in the meeting packet. Police Chief Neff and 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.

**Consider creating licensing and regulation of escorts and escort services**

These issues were originally discussed at the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Health and Safety Committee meeting, at the request of Police Chief Neff.

Police Chief Neff stated that the licensing and regulation of escort services could be a tool to help identify and monitor escort services and serve as an aid in enforcing potential illegal drugs and/or prostitution activities. While Police Chief Neff does not view these activities as rampant, he is of the opinion that the licensing and regulation could prove to be valuable.

Alderwoman Peterson stated, at the present time, she is not in favor of or comfortable with the licensing of escort services. In her opinion, doing so would be somewhat of an “endorsement” of this type of activity.

Discussion on this will continue at the January Health and Safety Committee meeting. Police Chief Neff suggested that perhaps Police Lieutenant Mike Hamann and/or law enforcement officials from neighboring governmental entities could be invited to that meeting to share further information and answer questions. The committee agreed that this could be beneficial. No action was taken at this time.

### **Ordinances re: snowmobile, UTV and ATV operation within City limits**

This item was originally discussed at the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Health and Safety Committee meeting, at the request of Alderman Sukow. The current City ordinances related to the operation of snowmobile/ATV operation within the City were in the meeting packet.

Alderman Sukow stated that, after preliminary discussion, the public would be given an opportunity to provide input on the operation of snowmobiles, all-terrain (ATV) vehicles and utility terrain (UTV) vehicles within the city limits.

Police Chief Neff reported on the current ordinances related to snowmobile operation within the city limits. He stated that the Chamber of Commerce maps are outdated as far as snowmobile trails are concerned, as the maps do not display the city streets on which snowmobiling is currently allowed.

Police Chief Neff noted that, although municipalities are allowed to provide residential access for snowmobiles, the same type of residential access cannot be allowed for the operation of ATV/UTV vehicles. He added that insurance cannot be made mandatory for ATV/UTV operation, because they are not considered motor vehicles.

Alderman Sukow announced that public input on this issue would be accepted at this time.

Paul Waid asked whether signage would be required if ATV/UTV trails are established. Police Chief Neff indicated that signage is required for this type of trail.

Dan Adamec stated that he is involved with snowmobiles and snowmobile safety throughout Lincoln County. He added that the City of Tomahawk has opened up the entire City to snowmobile traffic.

Corey Nowak stated that he was in favor of opening up trails within the city, as a method to increase tourist revenue.

Paul Waid stated that he was in favor of establishing ATV/UTV trails within the city.

William Schult, secretary of the Lincoln County Snowmobile Council, spoke on the possibility of opening up more snowmobile trails/routes in the city.

Angie Drew spoke in favor of establishing and opening up trails, as she sees this as a way to generate revenue.

Kurt Helmstadter stated that he was in attendance to support increased snowmobile access within the city.

Paul Waid again stated that he was in favor of ATV and UTVC access/operation within the city.

Matt Waid asked whether the use of helmets could be made mandatory. He was told that the use of helmets can only be declared mandatory for those who are under 18 years of age.

City Administrator Johnson stated that he was in favor of increasing snowmobile and UTV/ATV trails and access in the city.

Jon Drew, Brian Severt, Chris Nienow and Kevin Kleinschmidt all spoke in favor of opening up trails in the city limits.

Discussion on this issue will continue at the January Health and Safety Committee meeting. No action was taken at this time.

### **Monthly Report – Fire Chief Savone**

The report was in the meeting packet. Alderman Malm asked a question related to electronic problems with one of the fire trucks. Fire Chief Savone responded that this truck was a “demo” vehicle and that there have been problems ever since the vehicle was purchased.

### **Monthly Report – Police Chief Neff**

The report was in the meeting packet.

**Monthly Report – Lincoln County Humane Society**

The reports for two months were in the meeting packet.

**Place monthly reports on file**

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

**Schedule next meeting**

Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:00 P.M.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

Motion (Malm/Peterson) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:42 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC  
City Clerk