

1505150

**City of Merrill  
Water & Sewage Disposal Committee  
Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 5:00 P.M.  
Common Council Chambers, City Hall, 1004 East First Street**

Members Present (3 of 3): Alderman Rob Norton (Chairperson), Alderman John Burgener and Alderwoman Kandy Peterson.

Others Present Included: City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden (arr. during the meeting), Utility Superintendent Kim Kriewald, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Alderman Dave Sukow, Rod Akey, Kurt Wendt, Randy Frokjer, Jeremy Ratliff and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

**Call to order**

Alderman Norton called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

**Vouchers (February and March)**

Motion (Burgener/Peterson) to approve the vouchers. Carried.

**Consider request from Merrill Sheet Metal Works re: leak and water line**

This item was initially discussed at the February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting. At that meeting, Utility Superintendent Kriewald reported that, in January, a leak occurred at Merrill Sheet Metal Works, 1204 N. Center Avenue. Representing Merrill Sheet Metal Works, Kurt Wendt has discussed this with Utility Superintendent Kriewald and contends that the line should be designated as a City water main rather than a service line. Research indicates that, when the line was originally installed in 1961, it was designated as a service line. However, the road was widened at a later date, and Mr. Wendt's opinion is that the line should have been designated as a City water main at that time. At that meeting, no action was taken, and the item was placed on the current meeting agenda.

Alderman Norton announced that floor privileges would be granted to Kurt Wendt. Mr. Wendt explained that a plumber (Krueger Plumbing) has investigated the break/leak and determined that the break is beyond Merrill Sheet Metal's meter. Randy Frokjer, who represents Mr. Wendt, then requested the right to speak. City Administrator Johnson suggested that, because City Attorney Hayden was not present to represent the City, floor privileges not be granted to Mr. Frokjer.

City Attorney Hayden then arrived at the meeting. Mr. Frokjer then again asked for floor privileges, which were granted by Alderman Norton. Mr. Frokjer spoke on the issue and also distributed supporting materials.

City Attorney Hayden suggested that more research be done to gather information. Alderman Norton agreed with this and suggested that this issue also be discussed with the Public Service Commission. He added a suggestion that discussion on this continue at the next meeting.

No action was taken at this time.

### **Consider bids on reroofing of Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Information was in the meeting packet. Three bids were received. Maurer Roofing Inc., Marshfield, WI was the low bidder.

#### **1505151**

Motion (Burgener/Peterson) to approve the bid of \$152,460 (Base Bid #2=\$84,700, Alternate #2=\$53,900, 10% Contingency=\$13,860) from Maurer Roofing, Inc., for the Wastewater Treatment Plant reroofing project. Carried.

### **Review 2014 Annual Utility Report to the Public Service Commission**

A copy of the report for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 was in the meeting packet. Utility Superintendent Kriewald noted that, due to excessive water loss, it will be necessary to conduct a city-wide leak detection program.

No action was necessary, requested or taken.

### **Consider applying to PSC for simplified water rate increase**

Information was in the meeting packet. Due to the severe winter of 2013-2014, the Merrill Water Utility ended up with a negative 0.17% rate of return. The City is eligible for a 3% rate increase.

#### **1505152**

Motion (Norton/Burgener) to apply to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission for a 3% Simplified Water Rate (SWR) increase, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Carried.

### **Consider prices for engineering services for two projects**

Information in the meeting packet states that the water utility needs to replace a water line that runs under the Prairie River, behind the T.B. Scott Library. This project will require directional boring under the river.

A second pending project is upgrading the utilities on East Seventh Street (Lake Street to Elm Street) and associated street reconstruction.

The City sought and accepted quotes for the engineering design associated with these projects. Quotes were received from Clark Dietz, Becher Hoppe and Akey Engineering Services. Because the quotes received from Akey Engineering Services were significantly less than the quotes received from the other two firms, City staff recommends approving the quotes from Akey Engineering Services for the engineering design phase of both projects.

Motion (Peterson/Burgener) to approve the quote of \$6,500 from Akey Engineering Services for water line boring under the Prairie River (behind T.B. Scott Library) and approve the quote of \$7,500 from Akey Engineering Services for the East Seventh Street (Elm Street to Lake Street) utility upgrade and associated street reconstruction project.  
Carried.

Because these projects are both capital budgeted items, no Common Council action on the motion is necessary.

### **Consider prices for engineering services for Seventh Street Project**

See previous agenda item.

### **Review 2016 Utilities Capital Projects List**

Information related to potential future capital expenditures/projects was in the meeting packet. Utility Superintendent provided additional verbal details.

It was mentioned that, at this time, the list is only preliminary and subject to change.

No action taken.

### **Operations Report**

The report was in the meeting packet. Utility Superintendent Kriewald reported that it is critical that three blowers be replaced, so \$50,000 that was originally earmarked for Wastewater Treatment Plant lab upgrades will instead be used to replace those blowers.

The Utility Department is in the process of replacing three old fire hydrants.

### **Public Comment**

Alderman Sukow mentioned the percentage of water loss in 2014. He added that, in his opinion, a 3% water rate increase will be acceptable for customers.

**Next meeting**

Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:00 P.M., in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

**Adjournment**

Motion (Peterson/Burgener) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:01 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC  
City Clerk