



CITY OF MERRILL
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
MINUTES • WEDNESDAY MAY 27, 2015

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:30 PM

I. Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Pete Lokemoen	Aldersperson - Second District	Present	
Ryan Schwartzman	Aldersperson - Third District	Present	
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Bill Bialecki	Mayor	Present	
Dick Lupton	Street Commissioner	Present	

Others in attendance included: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Alderman Dave Sukow, Alderwoman Kandy Peterson, Duane Pfister, Rod Akey, Gary Schwartz and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel was excused.

Public Hearing attendees included: Frederic Fravert, Carl Hantke, Hilde Hantke, Sandra Klemke, Andrea Dart, Marlene Henrichs, Barbara Woller, Nicole Woller, Shirley Sabatke Olkives, Gerald Henrichs, Lori Josiger, Jon Wolf, Susan Pester and Brenda Luterbach.

II. Preliminary items:

1. Vouchers

Alderman Lokemoen stated that he has still has not received any answers on a voucher he raised questions about at the May meeting. The voucher is for field work done by Clark-Dietz Engineering in January. He also noted that, to date, it appears that his request to have vouchers itemized has been ignored.

Motion (Schwartzman/Lokemoen) to approve the vouchers.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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III. Other agenda items to consider:

1. Consider implementing angle parking on three blocks of East Main Street, from Court Street to Scott Street (recommendation made at May 5th, 2015 Redevelopment Authority meeting)

It was reported that the Redevelopment Authority is in favor of a change to angle parking on three blocks of East Main Street, from Court Street to Scott Street. The downtown group that has been meeting recently with City staff also favors this change.

Street Commissioner Lupton reported that, if approved, this change would also change certain snow-plowing procedures, but that he has no other concerns.

Alderman Schwartzman mentioned that if the change is made, there could be a potential problem if delivery trucks continue to park in the center of the street.

Motion (Lokemoen/Schwartzman) to approve angle parking on three blocks of East Main Street, from Court Street to Scott Street.

RESULT: APPROVED

2. Discuss options for traffic lane markings at Pine Ridge Avenue/State Highway 64 intersection (initially discussed at April 29th, 2015 meeting)

At the April meeting, Mayor Bialecki explained that the current marking system is causing traffic backups.

Gary Schwartz provided verbal information.

Motion (Schwartzman/Lokemoen) to change the northeast corner of the west-bound lane at the Pine Ridge Avenue/Highway 64 intersection as right-turn only.

RESULT: APPROVED

3. Consider ordinance amending Chapter 14, Article VII, Sections 181-198, related to erosion and stormwater management.

Street Commissioner Lupton reported that the proposed ordinance updates the current ordinance by incorporating Wisconsin State Statutes into the City ordinance.

Motion (Norton/Schwartzman) to approve the ordinance.

RESULT: APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL

Next: 6/9/2015 7:00 PM

4. Discussion and possible recommendation(s) on 2015 and 2016 street projects (agenda item requested by Street Commissioner Lupton)

Street Commissioner Lupton distributed a list of nine proposed 2015-2016 paving projects and then provided additional verbal information. He recommends that the Kyes Street (East Sixth Street to East Eighth Street) project could be done in 2015, along with the two projects involving Park Street. He also suggested that the North Poplar Street project, which only involves one block, could be considered.

Motion (Lokemoen/Schwartzman) to add the repaving of Kyes Street (East Sixth Street to East Eighth Street) project to the pending paving project list, after the bids on that project list have been received.

RESULT: APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL

Next: 6/9/2015 7:00 PM

5. Public Hearing at 6:00 P.M. on Superior St./West Tenth St. project

City Attorney Hayden read the public hearing notice.

Mayor Bialecki requested that people speaking to the Superior Street portion of the project speak first, followed by those speaking to the West Tenth Street portion of the project.

Motion (Schwartzman/Lokemoen) to open the public hearing. Carried.

A petition signed by fourteen people in the project area was received from Lori Josiger.

Mike Klempke spoke in opposition to the sidewalk portion of the project. In his opinion, there is little foot traffic in the project area.

Nicole Woller and Shirley Sabatke Olkives asked questions related to sidewalk, curb and gutter installation procedures.

Jon Wolf asked about the sidewalk special assessment payment plan. Alderman Lokemoen provided details on the current payment policy. He reported that, under the current policy, the property owner is assessed 100% for the installation of new sidewalk. The property owner then pays 50% of the cost of any subsequent sidewalk installation.

Brenda Luterbach inquired as to the start date of the project. Rod Akey replied that the project will start in the middle of July and will hopefully be completed in August. Property owners will be given proper notification before the project begins.

Andrea Dart asked who had requested that the West Tenth Street project be done. Street Commissioner Lupton replied that Superior Street was to be done, and, since West Tenth Street was in the vicinity, it was incorporated as part of the project. He added that sidewalk installation would increase safety for pedestrian traffic. Andrea Dart responded that, in her opinion, there is little pedestrian traffic in the area.

Marlene Henrichs stated that she has lived in the project area for 49 years. She sees little foot traffic in the area and is opposed to sidewalk installation on West Tenth Street.

Fred Fravert recalled that this project was discussed approximately 25 years ago, but at that time the project was delayed. He is not opposed to the installation of curb and gutter, but, in his opinion, sidewalk installation is unnecessary. He also asked questions related to the special assessment payment plan.

Carl Hantke does not think sidewalk installation is necessary. He asked if several trees could remain if only curb and gutter, but not sidewalk, is installed. Rod Akey responded that, if sidewalk is installed, the trees would need to be removed. Some trees could remain, however, if only curb and gutter is installed.

Note Alderman Norton left the meeting at 6:33 P.M.

Carl Hantke then asked about the possibility of block grant(s) being used to help fund the project. Finance Director Unertl replied that she could provide an answer to this at a future meeting.

Andrea Dart asked what was the purpose of the project. Mayor Bialecki replied that the sidewalk needed replacing, so the other portions of the project were added as well.

Mike Klemke stated that he was told by a former City official that this project would not be undertaken until a vacant lot in the area was purchased. Mr. Klemke suggested using seal coating. Alderman Lokemoen replied that the City has not used seal coating on roads for several years.

Lori Josiger stated her opinion that sidewalk installation would not increase safety.

Motion (Lokemoen/Schwartzman) to close the public hearing. Carried. The public hearing was closed at 6:48 P.M.

Alderman Lokemoen stated that Alderman Burgener had suggested doing the sidewalk installation this year, but delaying the curb and gutter installation until 2016. In response, City Administrator Johnson suggested retaining the curb and gutter installation in the project, but removing the sidewalk installation.

Finance Director Unertl stated that, at some point, the special assessment payment plan time frames be extended.

Motion (Schwartzman/Bialecki) to approve the project, with the sidewalk installation removed. Motion failed.

Motion (Lupton/Schwartzman) to refer the project to the Common Council with no recommendation.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL	Next: 6/9/2015 7:00 PM
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IV. Monthly Reports:

1. Street Commissioner Lupton

The report was in the meeting packet.

2. Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel

The report was in the meeting packet.

3. Consider placing monthly reports on file

Motion (Schwartzman/Lokemoen) to place the monthly reports on file.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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V. Establish date, time and location of next meeting

June 17th, 2015 at 4:00 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

VI. Public Comment Period

One member of the audience expressed disappointment that more Common Council members were not in attendance. She was told that this was a meeting at the committee level, but not a Common Council meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Motion (Schwartzman/Lokemoen) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 7:02 P.M.