



CITY OF MERRILL
WATER & SEWAGE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES • WEDNESDAY APRIL 26, 2017

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:00 PM

I. Call to Order

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

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kandy Peterson	Aldersperson - Fourth District	Present	
John Burgener	Aldersperson - Fifth District & President	Present	
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	

Also in attendance: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Mayor Bill Bialecki, Utility Operations Manager Gabe Steinagel, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Alderwoman Mary Ball, Isaac Dolan, Diane Thoun and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

II. Preliminary items:

1. Vouchers

Motion (Burgener/Peterson) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

III. Agenda items for consideration:

1. Review 2016 Public Service Commission (PSC) Annual Report

The report was in the meeting packet.

Alderman Norton stated that his review of the report did not reveal anything unusual.

Finance Director Unertl stated that the report showed a decrease in cash, primarily because the report does not reflect upcoming borrowing.

Utility Operations Manager Steinagel noted a decrease in water loss.

No action on the report was necessary, requested or taken.

2. Consider Water Simplified Rate Case Application to Public Service Commission (PSC)

Finance Director Unertl reported that she is recommending a 3% increase.

Alderman Burgener stated that he was not in favor of an increase at this time, citing the fact that there have been increases annually for several consecutive years. Alderman Norton disagreed, stating that he would prefer smaller increases annually over larger increases periodically.

Alderman Burgener then stated that he would not be opposed to a smaller annual increase, suggesting 1%. Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey responded that there is extensive work upcoming, and that maintenance and upgrades are an integral part of operating costs. Alderwoman Peterson remarked that she could understand Alderman Burgener's comments, but that, in her opinion, people have become accustomed to annual increases.

Motion (Norton/Peterson) to apply to the Public Service Commission for a 3% Simplified Water Rate (SWR) increase, effective July 1st, 2017.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 5/9/2017 7:00 PM
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3. Operations Report

The report was in the meeting packet. Utility Operations Manager Steinagel read the report.

Radio box installation was discussed. Alderman Norton remarked that he has received favorable comments on automatic billing and online payment capability.

IV. Public Comment Period

None.

V. Establish date, time and location of next meeting

Wednesday, May 24th, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

VI. Adjournment

Motion (Burgener/Peterson) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:17 P.M.