



CITY OF MERRILL
WATER & SEWAGE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES • WEDNESDAY MAY 23, 2018

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 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Pete Lokemoen | Aldersperson - Second District | Present | |
| Rob Norton | Aldersperson - Seventh District | Present | |
| Steve Osness | Aldersperson - Fourth District | Present | |

Also in attendance: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Utility Operations Manager Gabe Steinagel, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Mayor Derek Woellner, Scott McCall and City Clerk Bill Heideman.

II. Preliminary Items

1. April Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Osness/Lokemoen) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

III. Agenda Items for Consideration

1. Discussion & recommendation on potential water bill adjustment for Whispering Pines Jade Street.

This agenda item is related to the bill for the Whispering Pines Jade Street pit. Multiple leaks have caused the bills for this account to increase substantially. Two adjustments have already been made on this account.

The first adjustment was done on November 7th, 2017, and was done per City policy. This adjustment was for both water charges and sewer charges, and the total adjustment was \$2,915.11. The second adjustment was done May 3rd, 2018, and was authorized by Utility Operations Manager Steinagel. This adjustment was on sewer charges only, and the amount of the adjustment was \$27,638.82. The Public Service Commission (PSC) has limits on the amounts that bills can be adjusted.

Scott McCall, regional manager for Whispering Pines, is requesting that a further adjustment be made on this account. It was noted that the leaks are in the lines, not in the pit.

Motion (Lokemoen/Norton) to make no further adjustment. Carried.

2. Discussion & recommendation on request from Kautza Septic Service Inc to be allowed to dispose of septic/holding tank wastes at the Merrill Wastewater Plant.

Utility Operations Manager Steinagel reported that he has no concerns with the application as submitted.

Motion (Lokemoen/Osness) to approve.

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|----------------|-----------------|
| RESULT: | APPROVED |
|----------------|-----------------|

3. Operations Report

The report was in the meeting packet.

Utility Operations Manager Steinagel reviewed the report.

IV. Public Comment Period

Mayor Woellner stated that he was not in favor of the current policy regarding adjustments to bills. In his opinion, the utility needs to be “customer-driven”, and he would like allow for more discretion in adjusting bills. He proposed that consideration be given to changing policies related to bill adjustments.

V. Establish date, time and location of next meeting

To be determined.

VI. Adjournment

Motion (Lokemoen/Osness) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:24 P.M.