



CITY OF MERRILL
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
MINUTES • WEDNESDAY JULY 25, 2018

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

4:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Pete Lokemoen	Aldersperson - Second District	Present	
Ryan Schwartzman	Aldersperson - Third District & Council President	Present	
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	

Also in attendance: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Street & Weed Commissioner Ron Liberty, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Facilities Maintenance Manager Nick Wszalek, Alderman Dave Sukow, Alderman Paul Russell, Alderman Tim Meehean, Alderman Steve Osness (arr. 4:20), Gene Bebel, Jon Krohn, Don Swan, Gary Schwartz, Val Mindak, Eric Malm, Robert Oemig, Brenda Mueller and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A student was in attendance to tape the meeting for Merrill Productions. Street Superintendent Dustin Bonack had an excused absence.

2. Preliminary items:

1. Vouchers

Motion (Schwartzman/Lokemoen) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

3. Public Comment Period

Mayor Woellner requested that the order of agenda items be changed and that public comment be held next. He asked that members of the public who are speaking on the River Bend Trail extension to refrain from commenting until that agenda item is considered. The public will be allowed to make comments at that time. Without objection, the change of agenda items was ordered.

Robert Oemig, 210 N. Foster St., stated his objection to the \$300 fine he received for yard cleanup. His objection will be discussed at a future meeting.

Alderman Norton asked why consideration of the bid on the 511 Logan Street property was not included on this agenda. Alderman Lokemoen remarked that he was under the impression that the Board of Public Works was waiting for a statement from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding their plans for future use(s) of the property. Alderman Norton was told that this item will be on the August Board of Public Works agenda.

4. Other agenda items for consideration:

1. Discuss River Bend Trail extension to Pine Ridge Avenue

This item was part of an amended agenda. A cost estimate and a map were included in the meeting packet.

The estimated cost of the trail extension, as presented, is \$92,500.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey reported that City ordinances prohibit using blacktop for sidewalk in the right-of-way.

Alderman Schwartzman stated that he would favor the installation of sidewalk on both sides of the street, to be funded via special assessments to the affected property owners.

Alderman Lokemoen questioned the need, and stated that, in his opinion, the trail extension would take people into areas that are uninspiring to the eye.

Mayor Woellner asked that comments from the public on this issue be accepted at this time. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Val Mindak spoke in favor of extending the trail, noting that the trail is used extensively by many people.

Gary Schwartz stated that, in addition to the trail extension helping people get to the Pine Ridge area, it would also be a tool to return people "back into town".

Don Swan noted that many people have supported the trail from the time the concept of a trail began, and there is still wide support of the trail.

Gene Bebel noted that much money was spent on cleanup when the trail project began.

Alderman Meehean spoke in favor of extending the trail.

Alderman Russell supports the extension plan, stating that safety should be the top priority.

Jon Krohn, a Pine River resident, stated that the trail helps support the local businesses. He does not like to hear people putting up obstacles to prevent trail expansion.

It was noted that any development in violation of City ordinances would require Board of Public Works approval.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey stated that he fears that, if the trail extension is approved, there will be a push to install trail the other side as well.

Motion (Schwartzman/Norton) to approve the River Bend Trail extension as presented (TIF funding), and approve sidewalk extension from Memorial Drive to Sturdevant Street (funded by special assessments).

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 8/7/2018 7:00 PM
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2. Consider authorization for purchase of 406 Tyler Street for \$30,000.

At a meeting on July 23rd, 2018, the Health and Safety Committee recommended approval of this purchase.

City Administrator Johnson reported that purchase of the property would result in the property being “squared up”, and would also provide additional parking for events held at the Fire Station.

The cost to purchase the property is \$30,000. The estimated cost for the demolition of the house and garage is \$11,000. City Administrator Johnson estimates the total of all costs for the purchase at \$50,000.

Alderman Lokemoen stated that, if the purchase is approved, this should be considered a capital purchase for the Fire Department.

Motion (Schwartzman/Lokemoen) to approve the purchase.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 8/7/2018 7:00 PM
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3. Consider 2018 Budget Amendment for exterior painting of City Garage

Information on the request was in the meeting packet.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey reported that the City Garage needs to be painted.

The 2018 budgeted amount for the painting was \$15,000. The quote received was \$35,000. Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey recommends that the budgeted amount be amended to \$38,000.

It was reported that Finance Director Unertl has information and a plan on funding this budget amendment.

Motion (Norton/Schwartzman) to approve the budget amendment.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 8/7/2018 7:00 PM
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5. Monthly Reports:

1. Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel reported that the 2018 Sidewalk Maintenance project is progressing. He is also concentrating on garbage and exterior maintenance issues.

2. Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey reported that work on the 2018-5 Surface Project is set to begin on East Sixth Street. It is now estimated that 95% of East Sixth Street will be blacktopped in time for the fair.

The paving has been completed on the Alexander Street project, and curb and gutter have been installed.

Work on the downtown pocket part is in progress.

3. Street Superintendent Bonack

The monthly report was in the meeting packet. In the absence of Street Superintendent Bonack, Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey reviewed the report.

4. Street & Weed Commissioner Liberty

The monthly report was in the meeting packet. Street and Weed Commissioner Liberty reviewed the report.

5. Consider placing monthly reports on file

Motion (Schwartzman/Lokemoen) to place on file

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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6. Establish date, time and location of next regular meeting

Wednesday, August 22nd, 2018 at 4:00 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

7. Adjournment

Motion (Norton/Woellner) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 4:44 P.M.