



**CITY OF MERRILL**  
**WATER & SEWAGE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES • WEDNESDAY MAY 22, 2019**

**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
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Steve Osness	Aldersperson - Fourth District	Present	
Steve Hass	Aldersperson - Second District	Present	

Also in attendance: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Utility Operations Manager Gabe Steinagel, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, Street & Weed Commissioner Ron Liberty, Liz Holbrook (WSAU) and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A representative from Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

**II. Preliminary Items**

**1. April Vouchers**

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Hass/Osness) to approve.

<b>RESULT:            APPROVED</b>
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**III. Agenda Items for Consideration**

**1. Discussion on construction timeline for new water tower**

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey provided an oral status report on the planning process for a potential new water tower. In 2017, \$20,000 was budgeted to have a study done on the feasibility of a new tower. An additional \$30,000 was in the 2019 budget.

The proposed site for the tower would be on Thielman Street, east of the Ranger Station.

Currently, the City is below the desirable level of water demand for fire protection. A new tower would increase the amount of water available, which is critical as water demand increases.

Field work on this is currently being done by Strand Associates. The total estimated cost for the tower alone is \$1.8 million. The new tower has not yet been approved by the Common Council.

No action was taken at this time.

## 2. Discussion on future water rates

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey reported that a new water tower, if approved would come at a cost. The utility fund normally carries a balance of approximately \$800,000. There are concerns with the current low rate of return.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey recommends a 3% water rate increase. Alderman Osness replied that he is not in favor of an increase this year, in light of other increased costs to City residents, but he would be open to an increase next year.

City Administrator Johnson suggested that one method of saving on water bills is to use less water.

It was suggested that it is now time to educate the public on the rationale and the planning for a new water tower.

Discussion on and consideration of water rates will continue at the next meeting. No action was taken at this time.

## 3. Review & Approval of 2018 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR)

This was part of an amended agenda, and the report was in an amended meeting packet.

Utility Operations Manager Steinagel reported that the report revealed no major violations or concerns.

If the report is approved, it will be considered by resolution at the June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Common Council meeting.

Motion (Hass/Osness) to approve.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED &amp; SENT TO COUNCIL</b>	<b>Next: 6/11/2019 7:00 PM</b>
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## IV. Monthly Report

### 1. Operations Report

Utility Operations Manager Steinagel gave an oral report.

Sump pump inspections are ongoing.

The roof on the digester facility has been patched, but will need to be addressed in the future.

Well #4 will need rehabilitation to return to capacity.

There was a power outage on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, but it was addressed immediately and did not cause any problems.

V. Public Comment Period

None.

VI. Establish date, time & location of next meeting

Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. on the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

VII. Adjournment

Motion (Hass/Osness) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:17 P.M.