



CITY OF MERRILL
WATER & SEWAGE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES • WEDNESDAY JUNE 24, 2020

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:00 PM

I. Call to Order

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

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Steve Osness	Aldersperson - Fourth District	Present	
Mike Rick	Aldersperson - Sixth District	Present	
Mark Weix	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	

Also in attendance: Utility Operations Manager Gabe Steinagel, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A representative from Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. Preliminary Items

1. May Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Weix/Rick) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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III. Agenda Items for Consideration

1. Review & discussion of 2019 Water PSC Annual Report

The 2019 report was in the meeting packet. Utility Operations Manager Steinagel reviewed the report.

There are approximately 73 miles of water main in the City. Based on a 100-year cycle, the goal is to replace 3,900 feet per year. Last year, 4,800 feet was replaced, which exceeded the annual goal.

Water loss percentage was down to 16% in 2019. The loss percentage has been cut in half since 2016.

Testing of meters is ongoing. There are 4,050 meters in the City.

The rate of return on water is down to 0.69%. Consideration is being given to contracting with a firm to conduct a rate study.

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

2. Discussion on removal of fluoride to the water

Alderman Osness had placed this item on the agenda. He stated that, for several reasons, he wanted consideration given to removing the fluoride from City water.

Alderman Osness reported that the cost of adding fluoride to the water is approximately \$2,200 annually. It was mentioned that the fluoride affects equipment adversely. It was also noted that a small percentage of fluoride is in the water naturally.

The possibility of having a public hearing and/or a public informational meeting before the Common Council makes a decision on this was discussed. These meeting(s) would allow the public to receive information as well as provide input on this issue. It was agreed that, if the Water and Sewer Committee recommends removing the fluoride, the earliest it would be considered by the Common Council would be at the August Common Council meeting (August 12th).

Motion (Rick/Osness) to remove the fluoride from City water.

RESULT:	APPROVED & SENT TO COUNCIL	Next: 8/12/2020 6:00 PM
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IV. Monthly Report

1. Operations Report

The report was in the meeting packet.

Utility Operations Manager Steinagel reviewed the report, as follows:

Lead and copper sampling has been delayed due to COVID-19
Stopped/postponed meter changes due to COVID-19
Sewer main cleaning is ongoing
Maintenance continues, including painting in filter room
Annual Consumer Confidence Report/Newsletter has been completed

Public Works Director/City Engineer then verbally reported on projects in process. The water and sewer portion of the Grand Avenue project has been completed. No lead was found on any homeowner side. Currently, the projects are ahead of schedule.

V. Public Comment Period

None.

VI. Establish date, time and location of next meeting

Wednesday, July 29th, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

VII. Adjournment

Motion (Rick/Weix) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:21 P.M.