



CITY OF MERRILL
WATER & SEWAGE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES • WEDNESDAY JULY 29, 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	

Others in attendance: Mayor Derek Woellner, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Utility Operations Manager Gabe Steinagel, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Alderman Rick Blake, Lincoln County Health Department Director Shelley Hersil, Dr. Mark Mehlos, DDS, Dr. Jeff Moore, Karen Krueger, and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A representative from MP3 was present to videotape the meeting.

II. Public Comment Period

Alderman Osness requested that the order of agenda items be amended in order to move the "Public Comment" portion of the agenda to immediately after the call to order. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Lincoln County Health Department Director Hersil reported that the Lincoln County Health Department endorses the inclusion of fluoride in water.

Dr. Mark Mehlos, DDS, stated his concern that removing fluoride would be a financial burden on residents, due to increased tooth decay and related dental issues. He added that poor dental health can lead to other health issues. He is against removing the fluoride.

Dr. Jeff Moore stated the fluoride helps to decrease cavities. There are both benefits and risks associated with fluoride. If it was put to a vote, he would vote to retain it.

Karen Krueger stated that she is opposed to removing the fluoride. In her opinion, fluoride in the water does not present any major toxicity issues.

III. Preliminary Items

1. June Vouchers

Motion (Osness/Rick) to approve the vouchers.

RESULT: APPROVED

IV. Agenda Items for Consideration

1. 2021 Capital Requests

Information was in the meeting packet.

Utility Operations Manager Steinagel reviewed the requests.

Motion (Osness/Weix) to refer all 2021 capital budget requests to the 2021 budget process.

RESULT:	CARRIED
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2. Discussion & Recommendation on removal of fluoride to the water

It was noted that fluoride removal will be considered by the Common Council at their August 12th meeting.

Alderman Osness remarked that there are two sides to this issue.

Mayor Woellner agreed, and added that both sides could appear to be “right”. He suggested that, if the fluoride is removed, there are other methods to promote and ensure fluoride for children. He further suggested that the City, the Lincoln County Health Department and Merrill Area Public Schools could work together on achieving these alternatives.

No action was taken.

V. Monthly Report

1. Operations Report

The report was in the meeting packet.

Utility Operations Manager Steinagel reviewed the report.

VI. Establish date, time and location of next meeting

Wednesday, August 26th, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. in the City Hall Common Council Chambers.

VII. Adjournment

Motion (Osness/Rick) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:32 P.M.