



CITY OF MERRILL
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
MINUTES • WEDNESDAY JUNE 23, 2021

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John M. Van Lieshout	Aldersperson - Fifth District	Absent	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	
Steve Sabatke	Aldersperson - Eighth District	Present	
Mike Rick	Aldersperson - Sixth District	Present	

Others in attendance (either in-person or remotely) included: Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Street Superintendent Dustin Bonack, Street & Weed Commissioner Ron Liberty, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, City Attorney Tom Hayden, I/T Manager Dustin Brown, Facilities Maintenance Manager Nick Wszalek, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Alderman Steve Hass, Mike Weckwerth, Bea Lebal, Pat Burg, Ryan Schwartzman, Harry Wallace, Yurgen Markewycz, Mike Ravn and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

2. Preliminary items:

1. Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Alderman Sabatke and Alderman Rick asked questions related to the vouchers.

Motion (Rick/Sabatke) to approve.

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

3. Public Comment Period

Alderman Sabatke requested that, because several in attendance wanted to make public comment, the order or agenda items be changed and the public comment period be held next. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Alderman Hass spoke in favor of the City retaining the former American Legion Building when the Merrill Historical Society is no longer using the building as a collection center. He noted that the annual City budget includes funds for the Merrill Historical Society. Alderman Hass also commented on the quote for valves at the Fire Station. He noted that several defects with the facility have come to light. He urged the City to address these defects with the general contractor for that building project.

Four Merrill Historical Society Board members (Ryan Schwartzman, Bea Lebal, Pat Burg and Harry Wallace) all spoke in favor of rescinding the clause that states that ownership of the former American Legion Building reverts to the City when the Merrill Historical Society no longer uses the facility as a collection center. They also support the Historical Society keeping the proceeds from a sale of the building.

4. Other agenda items for consideration:

1. Consider request from the Merrill Historical Society Inc. to amend Resolution 1571, passed by the City of Merrill Common Council on March 9th, 1999. In this resolution, the City agreed to the transfer of the American Legion Building (now known as the Livingston Center) to the Merrill Historical Society, but the City retained a reversionary clause to the property. The resolution stipulates "that the in the event that the Merrill Historical Society, Inc. cease to use the Property or building for the Society's collection center, the property and any improvements thereon revert to the City of Merrill's ownership.". The Merrill Historical Society is now requesting that the reversionary clause and the rights contained therein be relinquished/extinguished by the City, to enable the Merrill Historical Society to sell the property.

Information was in the meeting packet.

Alderman Sabatke remarked that, while he respects the Merrill Historical Society, he also respects the City of Merrill Historical Preservation Committee. His opinion is that, if the building is to be sold, it should be put out for bids.

City Attorney Hayden responded that, in his opinion, the City does not currently own the building.

Mayor Woellner mentioned that, in 2018, the Merrill Historical Society submitted a similar request as the request being submitted. On June 27th, 2018, the Board of Public Works rejected that request, pending further discussion/action on the future of the facility and surrounding area. Based on that action, he questioned why the Merrill Historical Society now pursued a deal to sell the building.

Motion (Rick/Sabatke) to reject the request.

Motion (Woellner/Sabatke) to refer to the next Board of Public Works meeting.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO BPW	Next: 7/28/2021 5:15 PM
----------------	------------------------	--------------------------------

2. Request for hard-surfacing extension from Zelich Customs LLC., 2213 East Main Street.

The request was in the meeting packet.

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel reported that the request is a result of a change in plans. The requestor is working with Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel and Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey on the plan.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey suggested October 1st as an extension date.

Motion (Sabatke/Rick) to grant an extension until the end of September, and to review the issue at the October Board of Public Works meeting.

RESULT: APPROVED

3. Consider potential "No Mow May" policy

It was mentioned that other communities have similar policies. The City does have a "natural lawn" ordinance, a copy of which was in the meeting packet. Under this policy, people can apply for a "natural lawn" permit.

Alderman Sabatke suggested that adopting a "No Mow May" policy could result in more hassle compared to any benefits realized as a result of adopting such a policy.

No action was taken.

4. Consider "Prairie Trails to River Bend Connector Trail" bike route designation request from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Information and maps of the bike route were in the meeting packet. The Parks and Recreation Commission has already approved the route.

Motion (Rick/Woellner) to approve the route as submitted.

RESULT: APPROVED

5. Consider adding APR valves to "A" coils at Fire Station:

Proposal from Complete Control Inc. (\$12,417) for adding valves

Information was in the meeting packet.

Facilities Maintenance Manager Wszalek reported on the quote.

Alderman Sabatke stated that he inspected the fire station approximately a year ago, and discovered several construction oversights.

Alderman Rick and Alderman Hass recommended that the City seek relief from the contractor and others involved in the construction of the station.

Alderman Sabatke stated his opinion that the building was built for Florida weather, not Wisconsin weather. He suggested that perhaps this quote should be considered as a part of the 2022 budget process.

Motion (Woellner/Rick) to refer the Common Council, with no recommendation. Motion carried.

2021 Budget Amendment - Fire Station APR valves

Because the quote for the valves (previous agenda item) was referred to the Common Council without a recommendation, this agenda item was not considered.

6. Continue discussion on vacant city-owned Aldermanic District 7 properties

Maps of the properties were in the meeting packet.

Street Superintendent Bonack provided verbal details on the properties.

It was suggested that, if an adjacent property owner approaches the City to purchase a property, the City could then vacate that property.

Motion (Rick/Sabatke) to follow Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey's recommendations.

RESULT: APPROVED

5. **Monthly Reports:**

1. **Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey**

The report was in the meeting packet.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey provided a verbal update on current and pending projects, and then answered questions.

2. **Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel**

Two monthly reports were in the meeting packet.

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel reported "business as usual".

3. **Street Superintendent Bonack**

Street Superintendent Bonack reported on current projects and Street Department priorities.

4. **Street & Weed Commissioner Liberty**

Two monthly reports were in the meeting packet.

Street and Weed Commissioner Liberty reported that 130 parcels have been checked. To date, compliance has been good.

5. **Consider placing monthly reports on file**

Motion (Rick/Sabatke) to place on file.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

6. **Establish date, time and location of next regular meeting**

The next meeting will be at the call of the Chairperson.

7. **Adjournment**

Motion (Rick/Sabatke) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:23 P.M.