



CITY OF MERRILL
WATER & SEWAGE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES • WEDNESDAY APRIL 28, 2021

Regular Meeting **City Hall Council Chambers** **5:00 PM**

I. Call to Order

Alderman Osness called the meeting to order at 5:01 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	

Other attendees (either in-person or remotely) included: Mayor Derek Woellner, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Utility Operations Manager Gabe Steinagel, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, I/T Manager Dustin Brown, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Alderman Steve Sabatke, Alderman Steve Hass, Alderman Rick Blake and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. Preliminary Items

1. March Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Finance Director Unertl answered a question on a voucher.

Motion (Rick/Weix) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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III. Agenda Items for Consideration

1. Review & discuss the need for an additional water tower and possible funding sources

Information was in the meeting packet.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey provided historical information on consideration given to a new water tower, and the rationale for a new tower.

Finance Director Unertl distributed fiscal information and projections related to a new tower. She is recommending that American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds be used for tower plans. She supports a new water tower, both for fire protection and for east side growth.

Motion (Rick/Weix) to refer, with no recommendation, to the Committee of the Whole.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COMM. OF THE WHOLE	Next: 5/10/2021 5:15 PM
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2. Discussion on cross connection report, future plan & certification pay

No information was in the meeting packet.

Cross connection inspections are currently being conducted by “outside” inspectors. Utility Operations Manager Steinagel recommends that the operators take the necessary classes and become certified. They would then be qualified to do these inspections, which could then be done “in house”. This would involve a salary adjustment.

Motion (Weix/Rick) to recommend approval and refer to the Personnel and Finance Committee.

RESULT:	APPROVED, REFER TO P & F	Next: 5/27/2021 5:15 PM
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IV. Monthly Report

1. Operations Report

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

V. Public Comment Period

Finance Director Unertl reported that she will be distributing the 2020 Final Water Report from the Public Service Commission (PSC) on April 29th.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey made comments on certain fiscal aspects of water utility operations.

VI. Establish date, time and location of next meeting

Wednesday, May 26th, 2021 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.