

CITY OF MERRILL
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022 - MINUTES

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Derek Woellner and Alderpersons Steve Sabatke and Mike Rick

Members Absent: Alderperson John VanLieshout

Others Present: Alderpersons Steve Hass, Rick Blake, and Mark Weix, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Utility Superintendent Gabe Steinagel, Street Superintendent Dustin Bonack Finance Director/Deputy City Clerk Kathy Unertl (remote), IT Manager Dustin Brown, Bryan Hoffman from Bryan Hoffman Construction, Dave Schumitsch from Merrill Gravel & Construction Co., Christine Vorpapel, and Merrill Productions video operator

1. Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
2. Consider approval of meeting minutes from February 23rd – Motion (Sabatke/Rick) to approve. Carried.
3. Water & Sewer Agenda Items:
 1. Consider Hoffman CSM – private water and sanitary sewer service request

Hoffman and Akey reported on the rocky and wetland conditions of the vacant property. City Public Works is requesting an 80' easement for potential future street extension. Woellner questioned why just couple building lots instead of denser potential residential development.

Motion (Sabatke/Rick) to authorize the private water and sanitary sewer service waiver. Carried.

2. Water and Sewer Vouchers – Motion (Rick/Sabatke) to approve. Carried.
3. Water and Sewer Operations Report – There have been three water main breaks. Well No. 4 is offline for scheduled maintenance. Motion (Sabatke/Woellner) to approve. Carried.
4. Update on PFAS – Utility Superintendent Steinagel advised that waiting for further Federal EPA guidance.

4. BPW Agenda items:

1. Board of Public Works Vouchers – Motion (Rick/Sabatke) to approve. Carried.

2. Request from Dustin Widowski (300 S Cooper St.) regarding snow & ice removal fee

Property owner was out of town due to family medical emergency in Florida. There were some questions about date of the notice and when snow fell.

Motion (Sabatke) to reduce to \$100. There was no second

.

Motion (Woellner/Sabatke) to reduce to \$50. Carried.

3. Request from Amanda Baker (1905 E 6th St) regarding snow & ice removal fee

Property owner questioned timing of notice and when it actually snowed. City Ordinance requires clearance within 48-hours after snow fall. There had been a 2018 City Notice regarding snow & ice removal to this property owner.

Motion (Sabatke/Woellner) to reduce to \$150. Carried.

4. Request from Brenda Walters/RBW Properties and Natalie Peeters (808 Grand Ave.) regarding snow & ice removal fee

Tenant responsible from lease for snow handling; however, has medical issues. Daughter had been salting. Notice went to the property owner as listed in Lincoln County Land Records. The two invoices totaled \$800.

Motion (Woellner/Sabatke) to reduce first invoice to \$50 and second invoice to \$150 (i.e. total of \$200). Carried.

5. Request from Christine Vorpapel for “No Mow May (Continued from February 23rd meeting)

There was extension discussion,. Motion (Sabatke/Rick) to table issue. Carried.

6. Consider bids received 3/23/2022 for crushing of street recycle material

Two bids were received – from Merrill Gravel & Construction, Co. and PGA, Inc. Maximum amount is \$50,000; however, PGA, Inc. bid is for higher volume of crushed material. Public Works Director Akey check on references and recommended PGA, Inc.

Motion (Sabatke/Rick) to award crushing bid to PGA, Inc.

7. Consider bids received 3/28/2022 for M2022-02 street/utility project (W. 10th St. between N. Center Ave. and Lake St.).

Budget amount for this project is \$356,000.

Two bids received:

Merrill Gravel & Construction, Inc. for \$568,280.19

Haas Sons Inc. for \$641,489.06

Akey reported that his estimate of probable construction cost increased to \$500,000 after the M2022-01 bids which were awarded in early March. Dave Schumitsch from Merrill Gravel & Construction Co. emphasized that price for asphalt and ductile pipe continued to increase. There are also supply delivery challenges for ductile pipe.

Although American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are budgeted for water and sewer main replacements, Unertl advised that ARPA funding will be needed for the additional Police Officer position in future years. Other options were to use Water and Sewer Funds. Since there is no curb and gutter on this street, Unertl mentioned potential Special Assessments.

Board of Public Works members and Alderpersons at the meeting expressed reluctance to proceed with bid award due to the prices.

Motion (Rick/Sabatke) to reject the M2022-02 street/utility project bids. Carried.

8. Monthly Reports – Were included in the agenda packet,
 1. Building Inspector Pagel
 2. Public Works/City Engineer Akey
 3. Street Superintendent Bonack
 4. Street & Weed Commissioner Liberty
 5. Consider placing monthly reports on file – Motion (Sabatke/Rick). Carried.
9. Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 26th at 5:15 p.m.
10. Public Comment Period – None
11. Motion (Rick/Sabatke) to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. Carried.

Prepared by: Kathy Unertl, Finance Director/Deputy City Clerk