

CITY OF MERRILL

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 MINUTES

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

5:15 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Derek Woellner and Alderpersons John VanLieshout, Steve Sabatke, and Mike Rick (Remote)

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

1. Mayor Woellner called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
2. Water & Sewer Agenda Items:
 1. Water and Sewer Vouchers – Motion (Sabatke/VanLieshout) to approve. Carried.
 2. Water and Sewer Operations Report – Utility Superintendent Steinagel highlighted information.
 3. Background Information and Public Communication Guidance on PFAS – Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey and Utility Superintendent Steinagel reported that City water has not been tested for potential PFAS. Background information on PFAS was in the agenda packet.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Board took action at their February 23 meeting to adopt the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's recommended PFAS reporting levels.

3. BPW Agenda items:
 1. Board of Public Works Vouchers – Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to approve. Carried.
 2. Consider bids received 2/17/2022 for M2022-01 street projects

Three bids were received ranging from almost \$2 million to almost \$2.7 million. Dave Schumitsch from Merrill Gravel & Construction Co. and Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey commented on the increasing petroleum and other infrastructure material prices.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey advised that an additional block of E. 3rd St. (Logan St. to Blaine St.) was included the project. Standardization of water main to 12" diameter is needed (instead of keeping 10" diameter couple blocks),

Consider bids received 2/17/2022 for M2022-01 street projects – Continued

Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to recommend awarding the bid to Merrill Gravel & Construction Co. Carried.

Board members and other Alderpersons at the meeting concurred with Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey's request to hold a Special Common Council meeting on Tuesday, March 1st immediately after the City Planning Committee meeting.

3. Consideration of Ordinance Amendment – Chapter 30: Solid Waste & Recycling related to roll out carts - Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to approve. Carried.
4. Consideration of Ordinance Amendment – Chapter 16 – Solid Waste & Recycling Fees - Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to approve with one change from \$25.00 to \$20.00 to match the Chapter 30 information. Carried.
5. Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the vacation of an alley located in part of H.W. Wright Lumber Company's Addition (Requested by West Chippewa LLC)

There was aerial photo illustrating the location of the proposed alley vacation area. Motion (VanLieshout/Rick) to approve. Carried. A City Plan Commission public hearing will be the next step in the alley vacation process.

6. Request from Christine Vorpapel for "No Mow May

Background information was included in the agenda packet, including Board of Public Works meeting minutes from June 23, 2021. There will be further review and discussion at the next Board of Public Works meeting.

4. Public Hearing – 2022 Special Assessments – City Attorney Hayden read the public hearing notice at 6:00 p.m.

Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to open the public hearing on **sidewalk and concrete replacements**. No public comment.

Motion (Sabatke/VanLieshout) to close the public hearing and recommend including the sidewalk and concrete work.

Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to open the public hearing on **Michler Crest** curb, gutter, and pavement replacements. Letter received from Janet and Robert Reimann expressed support.

Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to close the public hearing and recommend including the Michler Crest improvements.

Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to open the public hearing on **Smith Street** curb, gutter, and pavement replacements. The proposed improvements were in response to dust complaints a couple years ago, as well as water main breaks and gravel street maintenance behind a commercial business. The following property owners testified against the proposed infrastructure improvements due to potential Special Assessments:

Robert Reimann (1103 Michler Crest) read letter from Gary Schultze (1005 Michler Crest) opposing Smith Street improvements.

Janet Reimann (1103 Michler Crest) read letter opposing Smith Street improvements.

Kay Vecchio (701 S. Smith St.) expressed strong opposition to the Smith Street improvements.

Letters in opposition were also received from Stephanie Kniech (610 Smith St.) and Merrill Shell LLC (604 Center Ave.).

Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to close the public hearing and to delete the proposed Smith Street improvements.

Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to open the public hearing on **alley on 200 block of between N. Center Ave. and N. Park St. (between E. 2nd St. and E. 3rd St. – behind a commercial business)** including grading the existing gravel alley and installing asphalt paving. No public comment.

Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to close the public hearing and recommend including the alley improvements.

Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to recommend the Special Assessment Resolution to the Common Council, excluding the proposed Smith Street project. Carried.

5. Monthly Reports: Information was included in the agenda packet.
 1. Building Inspector Pagel
 2. Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey (Report handed out at the meeting).
 3. Street Superintendent Bonack
 4. Street & Weed Commissioner Liberty
 5. Consider placing monthly reports on file – Motion (Sabatke/VanLieshout) to place monthly reports, including Water & Sewer Operations, on file. Carried.
6. Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 30 at 5:15 p.m.
7. Public Comment Period - None
8. Motion (VanLieshout/Sabatke) to adjourn. Carried at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Kathy Unertl, Finance Director/Deputy City Clerk