

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Monday, January 27, 2025 at 5:15 p.m., Council Chambers

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen (C), Sarah Watson, Carol Lukens

Members Excused: Lou Larson (VC), Becky McElhaney

Others Present: Dan McGrath, Todd Baeten, Tracy Durante

Noting the presence of a quorum Chairperson Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:23 p.m.

Approve minutes of previous meeting (12/16/2024).

Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to approve. Motion carried 3-0.

Consider approval or denial of various license applications.

Motion by Watson, second by Lukens, to approve or deny as recommended by staff. Motion carried 3-0.

HEARING: Rent Abatement Request for 615 Werle Avenue (Angel Holstein and Malik Marks, Tenants; Real Estate Investments, Landlord).

Rasmussen called forward all the witnesses to be sworn in for testimony by the clerk. Malik Marks and Angel Holstein, tenants at 615 Werle Avenue, Ana Lopez, landlord of the property at 615 Werle Avenue, and City of Wausau Property Inspector Evan Garski, were sworn in. Rasmussen proceeded with instructions for the hearing.

Marks and Holstein testified, followed by questions asked and answered between the witnesses and members of the committee. Lopez testified, followed by questions asked and answered between the witness and members of the committee. Garski testified, followed by questions asked and answered between the witness and members of the committee and Assistant City Attorney Daniel McGrath.

Rasmussen questioned the cost and timing of the repair. It was stated the original estimate on the repair was more than the actual cost and the repair was conducted 26 days after the water heater had stopped working due to landlords' inability to pay for the cost of the repair. It was additionally stated the delay for the repair was due to the landlord asking the tenants for an advance on rent or to contract with heating assistance services to cover the cost of the repair. Watson questioned how many days the tenants had interrupted schedules due to not having hot water or not being able to reside in the premise. It was stated the tenants' missed days of work and was not able to live in the premise when it was declared by the city that the premise was unfit for human occupancy.

CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 19. 85(1)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes: Deliberating concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing before that governmental body.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to convene in Closed Session.

Roll Call Vote – Yes: Lukens, Watson, Rasmussen; No: None. Motion carried 3-0.

CONVENED into Closed Session.

RECONVENE into Open Session to announce results of deliberations on Rent Abatement request for 615 Werle Avenue.

Rasmussen read the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law into the record. It was stated the committee granted the request for rent abatement for the tenants at 615 Werle Avenue retroactive to October 18, 2024, through November 13, 2024, for a total of 26 days in the amount of 75% of the monthly rent.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law placed on file.

Wausau Police Department Quarter 4 2024 Operations Report

Report placed on file.

Community Outreach Update.

Without objection, this item was taken out of order from the agenda.

Report placed on file.

Tavern Activities Report - December 1 - December 31, 2024.

Report placed on file.

Adjourn

Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

For full meeting video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cdu3Vc12ZHM> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_vrGTXPxok.