

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Monday, February 15, 2021, at 5:15 pm, (Council Chambers)

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen (C), Dawn Herbst, Pat Peckham, Jim Wadinski; *By WebEx*: Becky McElhane

Others Present: Tara Alfonso, Ben Bliven, Leslie Kremer, Bob Barteck, Katie Rosenberg, Kilian, Blake Opal-Wahoske, Jane E. Graham-Jennings, Phil Rentmeester

Minutes of previous meetings. (1/18/21)

Motion by Peckham, second by Herbst to approve the minutes of the 1/18/21 meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider approval or denial of various license applications.

Lisa Rasmussen stated there were two denial recommendation: Rebecca Bierman for an Operator's License and Jeremy Moeller for a Public Transport Driver License. It was noted that neither individual was present to appeal.

Motion by Wadinski, second by Herbst to approve or deny licenses as recommended by staff. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action recommending adoption of a City resolution supporting a statewide ban on conversion therapy practices

Lisa Rasmussen stated this was forwarded from the Liberation & Freedom Committee recommending adoption of a resolution supporting statewide action on the practice of conversion therapy. The resolution does not issue city fines for that practice, rather it requests statewide action that would impact the licensure of therapists that practicing the technique that is referenced.

Blake Opal-Wahoske, Chair of the Liberation & Freedom Committee, stated the mission of this committee is to promote an environment that accepts, celebrates and appreciates diversity within the community by proactively identifying areas of discrimination; providing education, communication and recommendations to the City Council and to the Mayor. He explained conversion therapy, also called reparative therapy, which is several dangerous and discredited practices aimed at changing individual's sexual orientation or sexual identity. Hypnotism, aversion therapy and group therapy are the core techniques, though not the only techniques used; conversion therapy can also involve violent role play and re-enactment of past abuses. The harm of conversion therapy includes depression, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, shame, social withdrawal, suicidal tendencies, and substance abuse, among others.

Jaxon Seeger, 525 S. 56th Ave and Timothy Maderas-Tanner, 3rd Street spoke in favor of a ban on conversion therapy and told their personal stories.

Mayor Rosenberg commented it is really important we recognize Wausau is here for everybody and did not want conversion therapy happening in this community. She thanked those that spoke up and encouraged support of the resolution.

Rasmussen stated if this committee approves the resolution it will go forward to the full City Council and if they pass it, it will be sent to our leaders in Madison. *Discussion followed.*

Motion by Peckham, second by McElhane to approve the resolution and change the word "ordinance" within the third from the last Whereas, to "resolution." Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on approval of amendment to Emergency Management Services Agreement between the City of Wausau and Marathon County

Mayor Rosenberg stated Finance Committee took up the funding issue with this item and this is the actual contract. It is about being able to plan a little better strategically.

Motion by Herbst, second by Wadinski to approve the amendment to the agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

Operations Report from Fire Department for October – January 2021

Deputy Chief Bob Barteck noted the overall numbers for 2020 showed a reduction in calls, however, this was over the Covid period. *Report placed on file.*

Tavern Activities / Compliance Checks / Law Enforcement Activities

Chief Bliven presented the Tavern Report for January 1, 2021 through January 31, 2021. (See attached)

Chief Ben Bliven reported within the last week and a half they conducted compliance checks on the massage therapy locations. There were 29 original businesses listed and identified in the City of Wausau that were massage therapy places; four of those were found to no longer be in business; and two businesses were not compliant with state statute license requirements and were issued citations either to the ownership or the employees. They have upcoming court dates in Municipal Court and they will continue to do follow-up on those locations. He noted all of the establishments officers went into were very receptive and appreciative of the work being done. *Report place on file.*

Communications

None

Adjourn

Motion by Peckham, second by Herbst to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.



Wausau Police Department

515 Grand Ave

Wausau, WI 54403

Ph. 715-261-

Date 02/05/2021
To Chief Bliven
From Lt. Mike Felder

Subject TAVERN REPORT January 1, 2021 through January 31, 2021

ROUTINE TAVERN INSPECTIONS (No violations unless noted)

101 Pub, 101 N. 3rd Avenue
6th Street Pub, 2002 N. 6th Street

- Closed

After Shock, 1418 Lenard Street

- Officer noted that although there was a licensed, sober bartender, the owner was also on scene and described as being visibly intoxicated. Several patron grumbled complaints as to why Officers were there.

The Bar, 1025 S. 3rd Avenue

- Closed

Bob & Randy's Bar, 1515 N. 6th Street

Bull Falls Brewery, 901 E. Thomas Street

Cabaret, 204 E. Rib Mountain Drive

Closed

Callon Street Pub, 209 Callon Street

Campus Pub, 1110 W. Campus Drive

The Chatterbox Bar, 102 S. 2nd Avenue

Cop Shoppe Pub, 701 Washington Street

Day's Bowl-A-Dome, 1715 Stewart Avenue

CONVENIENCE/GROCERY STORE INSPECTIONS (No violations unless noted)

None.

RESTAURANT INSPECTIONS (No violations unless noted)

None.

ALCOHOL COMPLIANCE CHECKS

None.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS AT TAVERNS TO WHICH POLICE WERE DISPATCHED.

Cop Shoppe Bar, 701 Washington Street

- (1) *Event #21007831, 01/17/2021 at 4:05 PM:* A woman called to report that there was a male in the bar on probation. The woman called the bar to see if the male was there, as there is a restraining order out between the two of them (and she wanted to go to the bar). The bartender told the woman that the male in question was at the bar. Officers responded to the bar and did not locate the male. The bartender stated the male had not been in the bar since the day before. The male did have probation restrictions that prohibited alcohol consumption.

Loppnow's Sports Bar, 1502 N. 3rd Street

- (1) *Case #21000026, 01/01/2021 at 1:41 AM:* An **employee** called to request assistance with a woman that was banging on the doors after having punched the bartender in the face. Officers responded and detained the suspect female a block north of the bar. In talking with the bartender, the suspect was involved in an argument over change at the pool table. The bartender moved to separate the parties involved, at which point the suspect punched her in the face. The employee declined to pursue charges
- (2) of battery, even though the punch had caused her pain (an element of the crime). Officers planned on issuing a summons for Disorderly Conduct. When confronted with this outcome, the suspect stepped toward the officer aggressively and asked, in a vulgarity-laced challenge, if the officer knew who she was. She was taken into custody and taken to jail.

Denmar Tavern, 601 W. Thomas Street

- (1) *Event #21000001, 01/01/2021 at 12:00 AM:* (The first incident of 2021) Officers responded to the bar after a call was received regarding a male having walked into the bar with his face full of blood. The male could not say what day of the week it was. It was determined that the male had been involved in a single vehicle crash near the YMCA, and had fled the scene. The male denied being the driver, however the vehicle keys were found in his pocket. His injuries were consistent with the damage to the windshield of the vehicle. Only the driver's side airbag had been deployed. The male was arrested for OWI-3rd offense and failure to notify law enforcement of a crash.

Eagle's Club, 1703 S. 3rd Avenue

- (1) *Case #21000434, 01/14/2021 at 9:10 PM:* An **employee** called to report a fight in progress. On arrival, one male was detained, and the other one fled on foot towards the lake. Officers searched for the male, utilizing a canine to assist, and eventually found the male hiding along the edge of the shore under thick brush. Witnesses described the male that did not run as the primary instigator in the altercation. This suspect is reported to have an unhealthy obsession over the bar manager. Bar management requested assistance with notifying this suspect that he was banned from the bar, which was noted. He was also issued a municipal citation for Disorderly Conduct for his involvement in the altercation. The male that ran and was captured was issued a summons for Obstructing an Officer. A message was also left with his probation agent regarding the incident. The officers noted that the bar manager (who basically described being harassed by the offending patron above) was insistent that she did not feel contacting law enforcement for assistance in removing someone from the bar was beneficial to her business. She was described as having a rather adamant stance against calling the police, despite attempts by responding officers to engage her in a conversation that hoped to build trust.

Roc's Place Bar, 810 S. 3rd Avenue

- (1) *Event #21007616, 01/17/2020 at 2:22 AM:* A named citizen reported two females physically fighting, and possibly another group inside fighting. While officers were responding, an update was received that vehicles were leaving with the people involved. There was also one person running away through the yards towards 1st Avenue. A white vehicle that was reportedly involved had moved over to M & R. On arrival, Officers stopped that white vehicle as it was leaving the M & R Bar. They spoke to several people in the parking lot and the occupants of the vehicle. Everyone denied that there was a physical fight. The bartender was contacted, who admitted there was a "small scuffle" in the bar between some females. She stated they were asked to leave and did so. She felt that there was no reason to call the police. No evidence was discovered that supported any further action.
- (2) *Event #21009834, 01/22/2021 at 1:43 AM:* A caller that refused to be identified called to report a physical fight outside the bar involving five people. The caller described the people as getting into two

different vehicles in the parking lot. Officers arrived while the people involved were still on scene. The bar owner and a bartender were contacted on scene, and described the incident as a shouting match that started when one woman was too intoxicated to drive, and her friends would not give her the car keys. Officers made an inquiry as to the availability of the video from the bar to confirm that version of events, however the manager was not available.

Treu's Tic Toc Club, 1201 W. Thomas Street

- (1) *Case #21000411, 01/14/2021 at 11:03 AM:* An employee called to report receiving a counterfeit \$20 bill. An employee found the bill in the till on 01/08/2021, however there was no known time frame as to when it was accepted. Therefore, there was no way to locate a suspect. The bill was confiscated and the report was completed.

M & R Station, 818 S. 3rd Avenue

- (1) *Event #21002788, 01/07/2021 at 12:56 AM:* A woman called to report a friend was at the bar being harassed by an ex-boyfriend. The caller reported her friend as being upset, crying, and possibly being assaulted. The caller provided the name of the friend and a possible name for the ex-boyfriend. Law enforcement is familiar with both named parties and previous domestic incidents between them. Officers responded to the bar and made contact with the woman the caller had named. She denied any problems with her ex-boyfriend, and claimed her crying was due to the recent death of a friend. Questioning of the bar owner and a bar patron did not provide any further evidence of a crime. No further action was taken.

Day's Bowl-A-Dome, 1715 Stewart Avenue

- (1) *Event #21009703, 01/21/2021 at 6:31 PM:* A complainant that refused to be identified called to report what they believed to be people smoking marijuana in a black Ford F150 in the parking lot. The caller stated the order could be detected from outside the vehicle. An officer responded and was not able to locate a vehicle that had an odor consistent with anyone smoking marijuana.

101 Pub, 101 N 3rd Avenue

- (1) *Event #21000983, 01/03/2021 at 2:11 AM:* An intoxicated woman called to report several issues with the bar. She claimed they were serving people after hours (even though the call was received before closing), claimed that there was drug dealing going on and that the bartender is partaking in the dealing. She was not able to give any vehicle descriptions of those involved, or of the people involved, other than one of the males wears a hat and has a mustache. The dispatcher remarked in the call taking notes that the caller seemed extremely intoxicated or under the influence of drugs. The caller requested an officer return her call to discuss the issues. An officer called her approximately an hour later, and left a voicemail for her. She did not return the officer's call.

Aftershock Bar, 1418 Lenard Street

*** Numerous extra patrols have continued through January (a total of thirty-six). Anything of note is listed below.

- (1) *Event #21007462, 01/16/2021 at 7:17 PM:* A bar check was completed. The officer stated that the owner was on scene, and described as being intoxicated. There were some complaint-type grumblings by customers regarding why the officers were there. No violations were noted, and there was a sober bartender.
- (2) *Event #21009326, 01/20/2021 at 9:54 PM:* A caller that refused to be identified reported a black vehicle running in the parking lot with loud music. An officer responded and was not able to find the vehicle. The officer was contacted by the anonymous caller and informed that the vehicle left shortly after the complaint had been called in.

Labor Temple, 318 S. 3rd Avenue

- (1) *Event #21013211, 01/29/2021 at 6:08 PM:* A male called to report that a male patron had threatened to shoot the bartender after being kicked out the bar. A gun was not displayed, and the male left the bar while officers were responding. Officers located the male a short distance away. He was highly intoxicated, however unarmed. The male denied making any type of threat. Contact with the bartender confirmed that she had never heard anything about a weapon. He was talking to another patron while being disrespectful, banging glass bottles together to try to get her attention. The bartender asked him to stop doing that, which offended him. He then made a comment to the other patron that he would come back at 2:00 AM and "take care of" the bartender. The bartender did not

want to pursue charges, however she wanted the male advised not to come back to the bar.

Showtime Gentlemen's Club, 1709 Merrill Ave

- (1) *Event #21007604, 01/17/2021 at 1:06 AM:* An **employee** called to report that a male patron was suspected of video recording the dancers on stage. Employees asked the male to show them his phone and delete the recording, which he refused to do. The employee was in possession of the patron's phone and was awaiting officers. An Officer responded and the patron allowed the Officer to examine the phone. Approximately five videos of the dancers were located and the patron allowed the Officer to delete them from the phone. The patron was advised that he was no longer allowed in the bar. He left without any further problems.
- (2) *Event #21013745, 01/30/2021 at 8:33 PM:* An **employee** called to report that a male walked in and appeared to be "pretty beat up." The responding officer made contact with the female, who claimed she had fallen. She had sustained abrasion type injuries on her face there didn't seem consistent with falling, however she insisted that is what happened. The officer tried to assess whether or not she felt safe. She would not deviate from the initial information she provided, claiming she fell. The officer spoke to the woman's fiancé, who also stated she had fallen while walking outside of Hutch's bar, prior to arriving at Showtime. The officer was unable to provide the woman any further services.

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE DEMERIT POINTS ASSESSED

- There were no changes to the Demerit Point Record.

Respectfully submitted,
Lt. Michael Felder