

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Monday, February 17, 2025 at 5:15 p.m., Council Chambers

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

Members Excused: Becky McElhaney

Others Present: Matthew Barnes, Justin Pluess, Maryanne Groat, Mayor Diny

Noting the presence of a quorum Chairperson Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Approve minutes of previous meeting (01/27/2025).

Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to approve. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider approval or denial of various license applications.

Rasmussen stated there were denial recommendations for Tiffany Hodges, applicant for New Bartender/Operator License. It was noted the applicant did not appear to appeal the denial recommendation.

Motion by Larson, second by Watson, to approve or deny various license as recommended by staff. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider approval or denial of Tavern Entertainment License for 4 Father's Pub.

Rasmussen stated there were two noise complaints against the establishment and the owner was not cooperative when the noise complaints were addressed by the police. Rasmussen questioned how there can be assurances that there will not be continued noise complaints at this establishment.

Larson stated opposition to approval of the license due to the police report which notes the owner was uncooperative when addressed with the noise complaint by the police.

Luken stated opposition to approval of the license because the owners of the establishment did not appear in person to the committee to address the issue, instead sending the spouse of one of the owners to speak to the committee.

Rasmussen noted the establishment was issued 50 demerit points for the two noise violations. It was stated a plan needs to be shown to ensure noise complaints do not continue to occur before the license can be approved.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Watson, to approve the Tavern Entertainment License. Watson withdrew the second.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to table until the next meeting. Watson withdrew the motion, Lukens withdrew the second.

Lukens stated both license holders need to appear to the committee with a noise mitigation plan for the committee to consider approval.

Larson stated opposition to tabling consideration because tabling provides the owners more time for excuses. It was stated the application can be denied and the applicants can appear before the committee with a new application and a plan for noise mitigation.

Rasmussen stated no action was taken and the application remains open and will be reinstated on the agenda when the owners come forward with a noise mitigation plan.

Wausau Fire Department Quarter 4 2024 Report.

Report placed on file.

Discussion and possible action regarding expiration of Residential Solid Waste and Recycling Service Agreement with Harter's Fox Valley Disposal and potential extension or request for proposal process.

Rasmussen stated the extension would be cheaper for the city to incur the cost of the services but said there may be concerns about renewing the contract without transparency and competition of bidding out.

Larson questioned why there was a seven-year extension as opposed to a ten-year extension.

Watson questioned if starting a request for proposal would indicate to the current vendor that the city is not interested in continuing with them. It was stated it was possible to do a request for proposal. Watson stated a preference for comparing the current provider with other competitors to see if there were differences.

Larson stated the service currently provided is more recycle friendly and the service itself is sufficient. Larson questioned if an RFP would render a better service or not and stated a preference for staying with the current provider.

Watson questioned if the current provider could feasibly sustain an extension at the current rate and provide the same service under the contract.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Larson, to release a request for proposal on the contract as updated by the parameters outlined at the meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Without objection, this item was taken up again.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Larson, to release a request for proposal that the staff will develop and articulate the contract needs without a deadline on the responses to allow the Finance Director to complete. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on proclamation to formally oppose any proposed federal or state cuts to Medicaid.

Rasmussen stated that in the past the Common Council seeks to speak in one voice on an important matter for the city.

Watson stated this was about protecting citizens and ensuring resources are still present within the city. It was noted an impact on this program would have a rippled impact on the city in matters of public safety and public finances. Watson stated the current budget reconciliation process going on within the United States Congress sites reductions in the Medicaid program.

Rasmussen said when any of the programs are underfunded or unavailable to residents it has an impact on the public safety services within the city.

Lukens stated a reduction in the program would also impact children within the city.

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Larson, to forward the resolution to the Common Council for consideration. Motion carried 4-0.

Tavern Activities Report - January 1 - January 31, 2025.

Report placed on file.

Community Outreach Update.

Report placed on file.

Adjourn

Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

For full meeting video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JF1hs-CBaFs>