

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Monday, May 24, 2021 at 5:15 pm, (Council Chambers)

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen (C), Dawn Herbst, Jim Wadinski, Becky McElhaney

Members Excused: Pat Peckham

Others Present: Tara Alfonso, Matt Barnes, Leslie Kremer, Bob Barteck, Mary Goede, Jamie Polley, Katie Rosenberg.

Minutes of previous meetings. (4/20/21, 4/27/21, & 5/17/21)

Motion by Herbst, second by McElhaney to approve the minutes of the 4/20, 4/27, and 5/17/2021 meetings. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider approval or denial of various license applications.

Lisa Rasmussen noted all of the July 1st renewals are on the list and there are no denial recommendations.

Motion by McElhaney, second by Herbst to approve the licenses as recommended. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider request for outdoor music and service of alcohol for a car show event at the Eagles Club, 1703 S 3rd have on Saturday, June 5, 2021.

Meryl Kelch, Eagles Club, indicated the intent is to have a car show with some acoustic music followed by a Soul & Funk Band, which will end by 10:00 pm. They will serve hamburgers and hot dogs and would like to serve beer and mixed drinks outside within their baseball diamond, which is fenced in. He noted they will have ID checks and wrist bands.

Motion by Herbst, second by McElhaney to approve the outdoor music and service of alcohol for the even at the Eagles Club on Saturday, June 5, 2021. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider amendment to Special Event Dining in the Street to include additional evening on Friday, June 18, 2021 (Wausau River District)

Lisa Rasmussen indicated the River District was requesting one additional date for Dining in the Street to take place during the event on The 400 Block for the Vic Ferrari Concert.

Blake Opal-Wahoske, Wausau River District, stated the event is called Symphony on the Rocks on June 18th and the organizers would like us to use our restaurants versus bringing in food vendors. He requested an amendment to the special event application to expand Dining in the Street to that one Friday.

Jim Wadinski questioned if there were any traffic issues with closing the streets. Deputy Chief Matt Barnes stated the Police Department had no objections.

Motion by Herbst, second by McElhaney to approve the amendment to Dining in the Street. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action delegating Class III Special Event processes and approvals to the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

Rasmussen explained Class III events are very small, usually private, and don't require city services. The applicants are usually booking park facilities, so rather than have people have to go through both the Park Department and the Clerk's Office, the request is to delegate the approval to the Park Department. She noted Class I and Class II would still come through this committee and Council.

Leslie Kremer, City Clerk, clarified there currently is a \$40 fee for the Class III Special Event to cover the administrative process, so since there would no longer be an application to fill out and file with us, there would no longer be a fee. Rasmussen pointed out they are already filling out a park reservation application and paying a fee.

Motion by Wadinski, second by McElhaney to approve delegating Class III event approvals to the Park Department. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on amending Section 8.08.170 Licenses

Rasmussen stated the Finance Committee started this discussion at their last meeting regarding the late fees for pet licensing. This ordinance, however, would just change the language that vaccination of a puppy is required by five months of age instead of four months. Becky McElhaney commented many veterinarians will not vaccinate animals that are very young.

Motion by Wadinski, second by Herbst to approve the amendment to Section 8.08.170. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on Ordinance Temporarily amending Section 8.08.010 Certain creatures forbidden (subsection (d) Exceptions).

Rasmussen stated this request comes from the Park Department to allow them to contract with a farmer to bring in goats to eat invasive species on Barker Stewart Island and also host a public information event where they would allow people to watch/pet the animals. She noted this would not open it up for people to keep goats in the city, it is an exception for these specific events.

Jamie Polley, Parks Director, indicated this was something she learned about through the National Park & Rec Association, as well as in Minnesota. She explained it is a way of controlling invasive species where you don't have to use chemicals. She stated they have done some vegetation management out on Barker Stewart Island, which was completely covered with buckthorn and honeysuckle. They cut it down once and are waiting for a regrowth and once that is big enough that is when it is beneficial to bring in the goats to eat it down. If it works and is cost effective for the city it may be something we would want to do every year. She did not anticipate using goats in any other area of the city other than on these islands. She stated depending on how many goats, it could be two weeks to a month. The special event would be a one afternoon family event either down by the island or at The 400 Block as a fundraiser to bring them here, as well as educational.

Polley explained there will be an electric fence that would separate the area the goats are working in. It is a double fence brought in and put up by the farmers, so the public will not be able to touch the goats but they can view them. At the special educational event for the family they will be able to pet some goats.

Tara Alfonso noted the ordinance is setup to expire October 31, 2021. Rasmussen stated if after the trial they want to continue this program, they can consider making it permanent.

Mayor Rosenberg commented Madison started their goat program last year and she was very enthusiastic about this trial which is good for the environment instead of using pesticides by the river.

Deputy Chief Matt Barnes commented for the Police Department this is a public safety issue. People did not feel safe out on one of the gems of this city, which is that island and the trails, because of the underbrush and the inability to see. People would come around a corner and end up with people off the trail hiding in the bushes because there were encampments there. He stated the Park Department has done a beautiful job of leveling all that underbrush and now you can see what is ahead of you. He encouraged citizens to go out on the island trails.

Motion by Herbst, second by McElhaney to approve a seasonal trial for use of the goats. Motion carried 4-0.

Operations Report from Fire Department for April 2021

Interim Chief Bob Barteck commented April was a fairly quiet month, but picked up May 1st with the five-alarm fire we assisted SAFER with and will be on next month's report. He noted the two new engines have arrived and are already in service. The three oldest apparatus will be auctioned. *Report placed on file.*

Tavern Activities / Compliance Checks / Law Enforcement Activities

Deputy Chief Matt Barnes presented the Wausau PD Operations Report – April 2021. *(Report placed on file.)*

Communications

Rasmussen reminded the committee the non-renewal hearing for Wagon Wheel is on Wednesday, June 9th. The Council meeting is being moved from the 8th to the 15th in order to bring the recommendation from the committee to the full Council before the June 30th license expiration.

Tony Brown, 715 N 5th Ave, addressed the committee asking if the city had a policy statement regarding vaccinations of employees. Rasmussen stated the Human Resources Department has been working with employees

to vaccinate. Mr. Brown stated as a citizen he would like to know that he is dealing with someone from the city who is vaccinated. If they are going to allow employees not to be vaccinated, he wanted them identified.

Rasmussen stated this committee does not mandate employee policy which is all done by the HR Committee which manages the city's workforce. She commented they have encouraged vaccinations of employees and many have been since the time they were available.

Adjourn

Motion by Wadinski, second by McElhaney to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm.