

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 5:15 pm, (Council Chambers)

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen (C), Pat Peckham, Dawn Herbst, Jim Wadinski

Members Excused: Becky McElhaney

Others Present: Tara Alfonso, Leslie Kremer, Todd Baeten, Bob Barteck, Mary Goede, Eric Lindman, Kevin Fabel, Katie Rosenberg, Tom Kilian

Minutes of previous meetings. (5/24/21)

Motion by Herbst, second by Peckham to approve the minutes of the 5/24/21 meetings. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on a “Resolution to Support Environmental Justice” considered and recommended by the Liberation and Freedom Committee

Lisa Rasmussen noted following the consideration of the resolution by the Liberation and Freedom Committee the legal department asks for some revisions to the draft, which has been done and that is what is before them tonight.

Tom Kilian explained the origins of the resolution for environmental justice and its implications. This was followed by public comment and extensive committee discussion which can be accessed on YouTube for the full dialogue:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNe5juceT2g>

Public Comment:

- 1) Gary Gisselman, 319 Park Ave, former Alderperson, urged the committee to move the resolution to City Council for approval.
- 2) Bruce Grau, 1115 N 10th St, spoke in support of the resolution.
- 3) Rita Pachal, 1310 Maple Hill Rd, spoke in support of the resolution.
- 4) Terry Kilian, 133 E Thomas St, on behalf of Citizens for a Clean Wausau, indicated strong support of the resolution.
- 5) Randy Radtke, 244 Wyatt St, spoke in support of the resolution.
- 6) Lisa Ortondergard, 220180 Pleasant Dr, Edgar, retired Social Worker for Wausau School District, spoke in support of the resolution.
- 7) Don Lewandowski, 174514 Mission Lake Rd, Hatley, owner of rental properties in the City of Wausau, spoke in support of the resolution.
- 8) Joyce Luedke, 3605 Cross Pointe Blvd, Apt 371, Weston, spoke in support of the resolution.
- 9) Chris Norfleet, 227 Scott St, spoke about the lack of public participation in government and in support of the resolution.
- 10) Jack Hogendyke, Hilltop Rd, express concerns about the resolution not accomplishing much because the problems can be addressed with existing laws.
- 11) Will Harris, 316 ½ N 3rd St, Apt C, Marathon County Board Supervisor District 3, urged committee support for the resolution.
- 12) Ka Lo, 620 ½ Lincoln Ave, Marathon County Board Supervisor District #5, urged passage of the resolution.

Kevin Fabel, Environment Engineer for the City of Wausau, addressed the committee on his review of the resolution and went through each point in the statement provided to the committee in the packet. Link to packet below:

https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Council/Archives/Standing%20Committees/Public%20Health%20and%20Safety%20Committee/2021/PHSC_20210629_Packet.pdf *Discussion followed,*

Eric Lindman, Director of Public Works and Utilities, commented he reviewed the resolution and tried to understand where the objectives and priorities are and to align them with what we are already doing. He felt direction to staff on how to move forward was missing. *Further discussion and questions. 5 minute recess was taken.*

Motion by Peckham, second by Wadinski to amend the wording in Section 2 as follows “also serves as the foundation for the future development of ~~additional ordinances~~ **practices** that ensure active consideration of environmental justice.....” Motion carried 3-1.

Motion by Peckham, second by Wadinski to approve the Environmental Justice Resolution with the intention of working with staff to develop equitable and wise procedures to handle these matters in the future, and as amended on the committee floor. Motion failed 2-2. (*Rasmussen and Herbst were the dissenting votes*)

Consider approval or denial of various license applications.

Rasmussen stated there is one denial recommendation for an Operator's License for Jessica Taylor. It was noted Ms. Taylor was not present to appeal.

Motion by Wadinski, second by Peckham to approve or deny licenses as recommended by staff. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider request for Premise Amendment to add an outdoor beer garden, 101 Pub, 101 N 3rd Ave (Brewer Entertainment LLC - Matt Brewer)

Matt Brewer indicated he has been the new owner of 101 Pub for approximately eight weeks and his business has grown and the priority now is space. He stated he has had some requests to have an outdoor event area similar to what Chatterbox has next door. He anticipated having some new activities in an outdoor beer garden, such as bags and music events, as well as additional seating and private events. The size would be approximately 25 x 50 square feet, fenced in. He indicated he would have to change the diving pattern within his parking lot. He noted he would be adding a handicapped entrance because there are some handicapped patrons. Staffing would be increased by two full-time employees for that additional space. He estimated the middle of July for the completion of construction.

Rasmussen pointed out outdoor music does require approval of the committee. She noted the committee typically asks that outdoor music end by 10:00 pm, so as not to disturb neighbors. Cpt. Todd Baeten commented noise complaints are pretty common with outdoor music entertainment, or indoor entertainment with doors left open.

Motion by Wadinski, second by Peckham to approve the premise amendment to add an outdoor beer garden at 101 Pub. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider request by Wausau Events to amend the Concerts on the Square event to add an additional concert on July 4, 2021.

Rasmussen stated the Wausau 4th of July Celebration has been canceled based on a lack of time to prepare and Covid restrictions, leaving a limited amount of things for people to do. Wausau Events would like to add an extra concert to their series to take place on The 400 Block on July 4, 2021.

Motion by Herbst, second by Peckham to approve the additional concert. Motion carried 4-0.

Operations Report from Fire Department for May 2021

Chief Robert Barteck commented on a 5th alarm fire in the Town of Marathon that the department responded to as Mutual Aid partners. *Report placed on file.*

Tavern Activities / Compliance Checks / Law Enforcement Activities

Captain Todd Baeten presented the Wausau PD Operations Report – May 2021. He commented the hiring and swearing in of three new police officers was a landmark event for the department because it is the first time within recent years that we have been at full staff. *Report placed on file.*

Communications

None.

Adjourn

Motion by Wadinski, second by Herbst to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.