

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Monday, July 19, 2021 at 5:15 pm, (Council Chambers)

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

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

Minutes of previous meetings. (6/29/21)

Motion by Peckham, second by Herbst to approve the minutes of the 6/29/21 meetings. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider approval or denial of various license applications.

Lisa Rasmussen noted there were not any denial recommendations this month. There are some special event applications and a Class B Beer license for the Wausau Cyclones Hockey Team.

Pat Peckham questioned a Public Transport Driver License renewal on the list that did not show a recommendation by the Police Chief. Deputy Clerk Mary Goede explained it was still pending the Chief's review, but the individual did not have a criminal history so it was expected to be approved.

Motion by Peckham, second by Herbst to approve licenses as recommended by staff and any pending applications contingent upon the Police Chief's approval. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding request for film shoot downtown - Brenton Wildman

Lisa Rasmussen indicated Brenton Wildman was available on WebEx to answer questions. She explained he has requested permission to do a film shoot downtown on a Sunday night. He has already had some discussion with the Police Department and the City Clerk and PD is leaning toward having 3rd Street closed for a couple hours.

Brenton Wildman explained his organization runs a dance film workshop in Wausau for which dancers from all different studios around the area and the state can register. They go through a whole process of scripting, storytelling, pre-production and get the students involved as much as possible for an educational experience. Four days are spent doing the choreography and rehearsal, which has started and goes until Thursday. He indicated the storyline and plot this year involved having a location on a main street with historic looking buildings, so he felt 3rd Street was perfect. There are 11 – 12 dancers using mainly the sidewalks and crosswalks and possibly some shots in the street. The shoot is a nighttime shoot that would start at dark, about 8:30 – 9:00 pm, and take about two to three hours. He was anticipating using the area/intersection near Back When Café and La Prima Deli (3rd Street & McClellan) and up that block. It was noted it would be on a Sunday evening when the businesses are closed.

Discussion followed on street closure during the event. Rasmussen stated DPW will have to leave the street barricades on the corners since they do not work on Sundays. The organizer will have to put them out to close the streets during the shoot and put them back on the corner afterwards.

Motion by Peckham, second by Wadinski to approve the request for the film shoot with closure of the 500 and 600 blocks of 3rd Street, as well as McClellan from 2nd Street to 4th Street, as needed from 8:00 pm – 11:30 pm on Sunday, July 25, 2021. Motion carried 5-0.

Operations Report from Fire Department for June 2021

Chief Barteck commented they are currently seeing EMS numbers trending up a bit, but had nothing significant to add to the report submitted. *The Operations Report can be accessed in the online committee packet:*

https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Council/Archives/Standing%20Committees/Public%20Health%20and%20Safety%20Committee/2021/PHSC_20210719_Packet.pdf Report placed on file.

Tavern Activities / Compliance Checks / Law Enforcement Activities

Deputy Matt Barnes presented the Wausau PD Operations Report – May 2021. *Report in committee packet:*

https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Council/Archives/Standing%20Committees/Public%20Health%20and%20Safety%20Committee/2021/PHSC_20210719_Packet.pdf Report placed on file.

Barnes commented during Covid, in cooperation with the Marathon County Sheriff's Department, less people got taken to jail and instead were issued summons orders to appear where bond conditions are set. Typically the conditions were signature bonds with rules, and those individuals would go back out into the community committing additional crimes. He stated these individuals knew they weren't going to jail so they continued to re-offend with low level crimes, which was very frustrating for our officers. He indicated they are seeing a tremendous amount of

people who are out on bond who commit another crime and are charged with bail jumping, but there aren't really any consequences to face. Now there are a tremendous amount of people awaiting trial.

Peckham noted 6th Street Pub still appears to be closed for business after 16 patrol checks by PD. He questioned if the committee intended to pursue revocation for abandonment. Rasmussen stated the Clerk was following up with the owner regarding opening for business, however, if it continues to be closed they would take action similar to what was done with Wagon Wheel.

Rasmussen noted the report shows The Intermission was assessed 25 demerit points for alcohol outside the premise. Extra patrols have continued outside After Shock bar on Lenard Street due to neighborhood complaints and activity had seemed to calm down, however, last weekend it was back to where it started from. She indicated there are still concerns about overserving the patrons and there was a fight that spilled out into the parking lot.

Deputy Barnes pointed out the concerning number of Heroin overdoses this year, which is on pace to set a new record. He stated another thing really impacting the clerical component of the department is the amount of open records request and the amount of time it takes to process them. Officers wear body cameras and to fulfill open records requests it requires a clerical person to watch every minute of the interaction for every officer there.

Communications

Pat Peckham stated the members of the Policing Task Force were encouraged to do a ride-along with an officer. He commented he participated and it showed him the reality of police work in Wausau and the extensive requirement for patience on the part of the officers.

Adjourn

Motion by Wadinski, second by Herbst to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm.