

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Monday, September 19, 2022, at 5:15 pm, (Council Chambers)

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Chad Henke, Doug Diny, Lou Larson, Becky McElhaney

Others Present: Nathan Miller, Jeremy Kopp, Matt Barnes, Kaitlyn Bernarde, Mary Goede, Katie Rosenberg

Minutes of previous meetings. (8/15/22)

Motion by McElhaney, second by Diny to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider approval or denial of various license applications

Lisa Rasmussen stated there were denial recommendations for Public Transport Diver Licenses for Joshua Newburry and Caleb Kluwe. It was noted Joshua Newburry was not present.

Caleb Kluwe addressed the committee stating he was recently released from incarceration and has been doing his best to turn his life around. He indicated since his release in April he has been denied three jobs and two others that he was not even given an interview because of his background. He stated he is actively and passionately trying to better his life but has hit nothing but roadblocks. He asked to be given a chance to succeed in the community.

Rasmussen was concerned that the information on the record was fairly recent and questioned if the record was accurate. Kluwe stated it was accurate and that he was charged in 2018 but he sat three years before he was sentenced, so the charges are not as recent as the 2021 sentencing date. Rasmussen stated the things on the record are drug violations, sale of drugs, disorderly conduct, theft, and criminal damage and she felt more time needs to pass without new charges. Deputy Chief Barnes stated these violations met the criteria for us to recommend the denial, which is the Chief's position and he supported it.

Rasmussen stated there was also a denial recommendation for a Bartender/Operator's License for Kim Waits.

Kim Waits stated the record was accurate except for a battery charge regarding her daughter. Rasmussen stated her record contained OWI's, THC, and a variety of pending Felony drug charges. Waits indicated she went to court this morning and those charges will be dropped within two years of her probation time, as she is on probation for those misdemeanor charges. Rasmussen felt she would like to see that time pass and have those charges dropped before approving a license. Waits indicated she was not bartending but worked at Tobacco Outlet and needed the license in case she must work alone.

Rasmussen stated the license is City Wide and allows an individual to work in any liquor licensed establishment either retail or taverns. She noted we have sent a request to our representatives in Madison to provide an option for a retail only license, but at this point nothing has happened. Waits stated her last OWI was in 2005 and she not been in any trouble. She commented she is 43 years old and is trying to start her life over, with three kids and two grandchildren. She stated she made bad decisions being with the wrong people at the wrong time but has learned from those mistakes and is just trying to do better.

Deputy Barnes stated the criminal history for Ms. Waits met the objective standards for a denial recommendation. Lou Larson requested Caleb Kluwe and Kim Waits be voted on separately.

Motion by Henke, second by McElhaney to approve or deny all licenses as recommended by staff, except for Caleb Kluwe and Kim Waits. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Larson, second by Diny to override the denial recommendation and approve the Public Transport Driver license of Caleb Kluwe. Motion failed 2-3.

Motion by Larson, second by Diny to override the denial recommendation and approve the Operator's License for Kim Waits. Motion failed 2-3.

Discussion and possible action regarding an Ordinance Creating Section 8.08.115 Large scale commercial animal breeding prohibited

Mayor Katie Rosenberg explained she stopped by a local business and met Season Schmitz, who informed her of the work she is doing in other municipalities and asked if it were something Wausau would consider. She noted

Wausau does not currently have a pet store, which may make it easier to consider regulating since it would not be affecting any operational business.

Season Schmitz indicated she took this subject up in Weston because there was a pet store there that primarily sells puppies. This concerned her because she sees these dogs that come from puppy mills coming in through a rescue that she works with as a volunteer. These animals are terrified and in horrible condition. She explained the operations of a puppy mill and the problem with them. She encouraged them to consider a humane Pet Store ordinance, which has already been adopted by over 400 localities across the nation, including Whitewater, Fort Atkinson, Appleton, Wauwatosa, and Waukesha.

To view full presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zIPT2CVKpM>

Discussion and questions followed regarding a draft of a proposed ordinance. Nathan Miller indicated next month a kennel license ordinance will be on the agenda for consideration and suggested the committee hold action on this ordinance for that meeting since the two relate.

Consensus of the committee was to bring it back to the next meeting.

Operations Report from Fire Department August 2022

No discussion: report placed on file.

Tavern Activities Report – August 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022

No discussion: report placed on file.

Communications

Lou Larson stated he would like to see monthly reports from the newly hired homelessness outreach specialist and would like to learn what kind of tools this committee can use to help with this. He felt the Public Health & Safety Committee needs to stay on top of this. Lisa Rasmussen agreed and stated starting in October, as part of the monthly law enforcement report, there will be an update about the outreach activity and how its going. This will help us identify deficiencies in the tools that she needs to manage the situation.

Deputy Chief Matt Barnes requested an opportunity to discuss some of the challenges and things they are seeing in regard to the homeless situation by placing it on the agenda for October. He indicated the Police Department, and the Parks Department would like to share information and ultimately to receive direction, guidance, policy, and expectations of the Council.

Adjourn

Motion by Henke, second by Larson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.