

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Monday, November 14, 2022, at 6:00 pm, (Council Chambers)

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

Members Excused: Becky McElhaney

Others Present: Nathan Miller, Robert Barteck, Matt Barnes, Anne Jacobson, Kaitlyn Bernarde, Mary Goede, Katie Rosenberg, Jamie Polley

Minutes of previous meetings. (10/24/22)

Motion by Larson, second by Henke to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider approval or denial of various license applications

Lisa Rasmussen stated last month the committee deferred action on the appeal of the denial recommendation of Charrish Wnfory to give her an opportunity to submit proof of rehabilitation. She has submitted those documents and upon review by Chief Bliven he approved her license, so the committee does not need to take any further action.

Rasmussen indicated there was a denial recommendation of a Public Transport Driver License for Michael Mayotte. It was noted that Mr. Mayotte did not appear to address the committee.

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

Consider request for an extension for good cause, Section 5.64.160(e) Abandonment of premises - Hiawatha Restaurant & Lounge, Inc.

Deputy Clerk, Mary Goede, explained Hiawatha closed for business towards the end of October and did not immediately surrender their license because they were in the middle of negotiating a sale of the building. The city has an ordinance if an establishment is not open for 30 consecutive days it is considered abandonment of premise and is subject to revocation. She stated she spoke with Adam Jamgochian to inquire if he would surrender the license to avoid a revocation hearing, however, he indicated although there was a delay there is a sale taking place. She noted today the individuals involved came to City Hall to get the license application paperwork. Mr. Jamgochian is requesting an extension to hold the license until the building is sold and the new owners apply for the license.

Motion by Diny, second by Henke to grant a 90-day extension of the license until the sale of the building closes and the new owners apply for the license. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on update from staff regarding homelessness and related activities.

Deputy Chief Matt Barnes stated due to unforeseen circumstances Tracy Rieger, Community Outreach Coordinator, was unable to attend so he would be reporting on her behalf.

Barnes indicated they will submit a monthly update report to the committee. He stated Tracy will be partnering with the Public Library as a place to meet with unhoused individuals as a location that is close to where they spend a lot of time. He indicated she estimated approximately 30 to 50 individuals that may be sleeping outdoors and in need of shelter. Each one has their own individualized plan and challenges that they are dealing with to be able to become housed, such as mental health concerns, eviction history, or a lack of identification. She has been taking them to the Social Security Office or DMV to get state IDs, as well as to register for available services and benefits. A concern is if they lose or have stolen their food share cards or IDs, so she has a lockbox safe at the Police Department for them to store their documents. She also works with landlords to find ways to fund their housing. *Lengthy discussion followed. Video available for full report:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afBkW9j9Bmo>

Operations Report from Fire Department September 2022 & October 2022

Chief Barteck stated a lot has occurred the last two months, including accepting a historic \$3.1 million SAFER Grant to fully fund nine firefighters for this community for the next three years. He indicated he interviewed 8 of 18 candidates today of a very strong candidate pool and plan to hire 12 of those 18. He stated we lowered the educational requirements quite a bit in order to welcome some people into the department and entered into a relationship with NTC to train them to the paramedic level, which will take 10 to 11 months. He commented we were very fortunate to receive that federal grant which only 7.5% of applicants receive.

Barteck stated we also received \$146,000 of state ARPA funds earmarked for EMS systems that were struggling, noting nearly 90% of the call volume is EMS. He pointed out we don't just service the city, but also serve several rural portions of the county and have contracts with many of the rural regions that are reaching out more and more for advanced life support care. He indicated \$100,000 of those funds will be dedicated to the purchase of a new ambulance and he noted that medical supplies prices have skyrocketed.

Wausau PD Operations Report - 3rd Quarter 2022, and the Tavern Activities Report – September 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022 and October 1 - October 31, 2022

Deputy Barnes pointed out the report is now tracking the cost of law enforcement services for special events. He commented each special event is broken down by costs and we felt it was relevant information for the committee to have as they consider policy.

Communications

None

Adjourn

Motion by Diny, second by Larson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.