

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

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

Members Excused: Pat Peckham, Dawn Herbst

Others Present: Tara Alfonso, Nathan, Miller, Ben Bliven, Robert Barteck, Jeremy Kopp, Mary Goede, Katie Rosenberg, Michelle Van Krey

Minutes of previous meetings. (10/18/21 & 11/01/21)

Motion by McElhaney, second by Wadinski to approve the minutes of the previous meetings on 10/18/21 & 11/01/21. Motion carried 3-0.

Consider approval or denial of various license applications.

Lisa Rasmussen stated there were no denial recommendations.

Rasmussen noted new applications for a Class A Beer & Liquor License from Skogen's Foodliner, Inc., dba Festival Foods, which is purchasing Trig's next month, and an application for Class B Beer & Class C Wine from A Taste of Jamaica & International Market, LLC. These licenses will be going to the November 23rd Council meeting.

Motion by McElhaney, second by Wadinski to approve the licenses as recommended by staff. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion and possible action of re-reviewing the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation with regards to the Class "B" Beer & Liquor License of Allen Woller, d/b/a 6th Street Pub, Premises located at 2002 N. 6th Street, Wausau, WI 54403 due to a possible sale of the business and a voluntary surrender of the Class "B" Beer & Liquor License

Rasmussen explained the committee previously recommended revocation of the license because the owner was in violation of the abandonment ordinance by not being open for an extended period. The recommendation is due to proceed to Council on November 23rd but can be withdrawn before that meeting. She stated Mr. Woller is willing to surrender the license because he has a buyer for the establishment. If the revocation proceeds there will be a six month cool down period for that premise whereby, we can't issue a license to anyone. Mary Goede, Deputy Clerk, indicated Mr. Woller came to City Hall today and signed the voluntary surrender.

Rasmussen noted the potential buyers have filed an application for the license and it will be reviewed by the Liquor License Review Subcommittee on November 30th.

Motion by Wadinski, second by McElhaney to accept the voluntary surrender of the Class B Beer & Liquor license of Allen Woller, premises at 2002 N 6th Street, and withdraw the revocation. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion and possible action on the proposal for the hiring of nine additional Firefighter/Paramedics (Fire Chief Barteck)

Rasmussen stated the Council viewed a presentation at its last meeting regarding the need of additional Firefighter/Paramedics and directed three committees to kick off the process. She indicated PH&S is the first committee to consider and analyze the need and if we agree there is a need, we forward a recommendation on to the Human Resources and Finance Committees. HR Committee will work out the timeline and the application process and the Finance Committee will work out the funding.

Chief Barteck stated at his presentation to the Council he described in detail how they run into difficulties when there are fires that occur when the med units are engaged in EMS calls. Following that meeting a few nights later, that exact scenario occurred when a fire happened at an address in the middle part of the city. He stated the night the fire occurred the city's new digital media person was doing a ride along with a city police officer and captured the incident. Barteck presented a PowerPoint of this fire incident showing precisely why it is so difficult when they are shorthanded.

The presentation can be viewed on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wF_vZy0_YE

Discussion followed. Wadinski indicated support for more manpower and believed community input was important and should be strongly considered for a referendum to reach more citizens. Rasmussen felt that a referendum slows down the process because you must wait for an election, the earliest being in April. She commented many times the

proper amount of information has not been absorbed by residents causing critical referendums to fail. She hoped to find a funding and hiring plan without having to use that step to move this along quicker. She noted whenever the city has done a survey on services that they value, public safety is always at the top.

Thomas Brown, 715 N 5th Ave, commented after viewing the presentation, which he felt was excellent, he would support the hiring.

Motion by McElhaney, second by Wadinski to recommend to the Human Resources and Finance Committees to continue the process to add the nine Firefighter/Paramedics. Motion carried 3-0.

Operations Report from Fire Department for October 2021

Deputy Chief Jeremy Kopp pointed to the five fire events the department went to and the mutual aid given to fire and EMS. *Report placed on file.*

Tavern Activities / Compliance Checks / Law Enforcement Activities

Chief Ben Bliven presented the tavern report for September 27, 2021 through October 31, 2021.

Bliven stated there were 10 calls to Cop Shoppe and he has a call in to the license holder to talk about why so much time has been spent responding there and to ensure they are working with us. He noted there were a couple of incidents where we have not been able to obtain the video from them.

Adjourn

Motion by McElhaney, second by Wadinski to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.