

## **PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Date and Time: Monday, October 16, 2023, at 5:15 p.m., (Council Chambers)

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

Members Excused: Chad Henke

Others Present: Mayor Rosenberg, Jeremy Kopp, Matt Barnes, Tegan Troutner, Tara Alfonso, Tracy Rieger, Mary Goede

In compliance with Wis. Stat. s. 19.84, notice of this meeting was duly posted and sent to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner. Noting the presence of a quorum, Chairperson Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

### **Minutes of previous meetings (9/18/23)**

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

### **Consider approval or denial of various license applications**

Lisa Rasmussen stated there was one denial recommendation for an Operator's License for Jason McGlone.

Jason McGlone addressed the committee about the charges his record from 2018. He stated that year was a very rough year for him. He explained he is a combat marine, exited service in 2001, and was being treated for PTSD and was unfortunately not in a good place during that timeframe. He stated he made some poor decisions and did some things he was not proud of but has since gone to therapy at two different locations, Gateway Counseling and Jerry Olson, both out of Marshfield. The therapy with Jerry Olson was court ordered as part of his probation and release. The Gateway Counseling was more focused on the PTSD in order to remove him from the medications associated with it. He stated he has learned to communicate and express his feelings and is not the same person he was then. He accepted responsibility for what he did but is now trying to move forward with his life. He indicated he very much enjoys working as a bartender for Tyler Vogt and wants it to be his full-time career. It was noted that he has not had any other charges since 2018.

Police Chief Matt Barnes stated the substantial battery conviction is an automatic disqualifier for a license, however, it is the chief's responsibility to review any rehabilitation efforts that were done. Barnes explained this is not just entail talking to him about it, but that he should bring documentation that he has successfully completed probation and attended counseling so that he can make a recommendation being fairly confident these issues no longer impact his life.

Rasmussen stated the committee could hold taking action on the license until Mr. McGlone can provide the documentation of rehabilitation to the chief. Chief Barnes stated he would be willing to review any documentation and re-evaluate the recommendation. Doug Diny suggested a letter from his employer in support could also be submitted.

Rasmussen stated the license list also includes a Class A Beer & Liquor license for a new gas station/convenience store on N 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, as well as a Class B Beer & Liquor license for The Pinery Coffee Company at the former Honest J's. The Liquor License Review Subcommittee met with the new owner prior to this meeting and unanimously recommended approval. She noted the owner will evaluate the share of the business that involves the use of the license and before they renew it, will take stock if they really need it.

Motion by McElhaney, second by Diny to approve or deny licenses as recommended by staff, with the exception of Jason McGlone \*to hold action to November. Motion carried 4-0.

\*Deputy Clerk Mary Goede pointed out if the chief changes his recommendation to approval for Jason McGlone, it would not need to come back to the committee next month because the committee only considers denial recommendations. If it is changed to approval the license can be immediately issued by the clerk.

### **Consider request for extension to open for business - Campus Pub Inc, dba Campus Pub, premises 110 W Campus Drive, owner, Kevin Steinke**

Lisa Rasmussen indicated the Police Department and City Clerk have been in contact with owner Kevin Steinke regarding the establishment not being open since June 30th. The Clerk's Office was not able to issue the renewal license because there is an outstanding wholesaler bill holding the license. Mr. Steinke was invited to the meeting to let the committee know his plan for clearing the hold and getting the business open. *It was noted that Kevin Steinke*

*was not present.* Rasmussen explained the committee has the option to not grant the extension and if a complaint is subsequently filed in the Clerk's Office, a revocation process could be started for abandonment of premises.

Lou Larson questioned past practice and if extensions are typically allowed in this situation. Rasmussen stated extensions have been granted when the owner has a defined plan to get open and stay open. In one case the owner had been seriously ill and was working to get the business back running, and in another case where the business was under renovation after a fire.

Mary Goede, Deputy Clerk, indicated Mr. Steinke called City Clerk, Kaitlyn Bernarde and stated he wanted to sell the business, but it wasn't very valuable to him without a license. It was explained to him that he needed to come to the Public Health & Safety Committee to show the committee that he could be open within the 90 days or had a buyer for the business. Rasmussen pointed out the license is not a property right and can't be sold with the business. A new owner would have to apply to the city and qualify for the license.

Larson questioned if there were any others waiting for a liquor license. Goede indicated she has received several inquiries for a regular license. Larson felt if he has been closed since the end of June and has not appeared to present a plan there was no reason to extend. Goede stated certified letters were sent to Mr. Steinke pointing out if the license is revoked there is a cooling off period on that specific location for six months where a license cannot be issued, as well as he personally would not be able to obtain another liquor license anywhere within the city for 12 months. It is in his best interests to avoid revocation and surrender the license back to the city, however, the certified letters were returned as "not picked up." She noted it has been very difficult to communicate with him.

Motion by Larson, second by McElhaney to grant the extension. Motion failed 0-5.

#### **Operations Report from Fire Department September 2023**

Jeremy Kopp commented the Deputy Chief process will be coming to a close in November, as well as the hoping to hire five new paramedics. *Report placed on file.*

#### **Wausau PD Operations Report – 3rd Quarter 2023**

Chief Matt Barnes spoke about the goal to have 30% of our officers female by 2030, however, we are a long way off from meeting that goal. He felt the female staff was an asset to the organization. He also discussed recent multiple shooting events and suicides. He indicated next week we will be bringing a candidate forward to the Police & Fire Commission for Deputy Chief, which will create a Captain opening and we are looking for three Lieutenants. *Report placed on file.*

#### **Tavern Activities Report – September 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023**

Chief Barnes pointed out the Cop Shoppe has had numerous responses from law enforcement, so proactively they invited the license holder to the Police Department for a meeting. He stated they had a very collaborative conversation and the owners listened to the expectations of the city. He commented he was cautiously optimistic that some of the issues will resolve themselves. Rasmussen referred to the 75 demerit points for the Cop Shoppe for lack of cooperation in not turning over a video and Barnes stated that was the main reason they were called in. He stated he'd be removing those demerit points after receiving an explanation as to how that actually happened.

Rasmussen pointed out there was extra activity at Loppnow's. Barnes felt the PD needed to partner with Loppnow's to try to prevent some of those behaviors, especially those that are affecting the neighborhood. He commented a lot of things can be happening with customers on their way in or their way out and tavern owners are expected to be actively engaged to make sure they are not disrupting the neighborhood.

Barnes updated that the individual that was involved in the shooting incident at M & R Station has been arrested and is in the Marathon County Jail. *Report placed on file.*

#### **Community Outreach Update**

Tracy Rieger stated there are approximately 248 unsheltered individuals that are seeking shelter, living outside, in the jail system, or seeking treatment and sober living at Bridge Street Mission. She noted this month the shelters were not at capacity very often. The Women's Community had an uptick of children versus last month. She indicated that she was able to house five more individuals off the streets into their own apartments.

Chief Barnes commented one of the things Tracy Rieger and others have come forward with is looking for out-of-the-box solutions and what the gaps are. He anticipated they will come before this committee in the future with ideas and get feedback. He indicated one idea is partnering with another organization within the community in order to provide some transitional housing that has fuller, close to fulltime oversight supervision and case management and then move from that location into permanent housing. Rasmussen agreed as part of the task force that case management is key, and we currently have a shortage of that.

Doug Diny asked for an update new on call effort. Rieger stated the Extreme Weather Planning Team, which was formed out of the Housing Task Force, did have an informational session on October 5<sup>th</sup> for anyone in the community, agencies, churches, and individuals that would be interested in joining in the new community initiative called Community on Call. She explained it is an initiative for extreme weather conditions to help house the unhoused when Catholic Charities is full, and we need some additional help in the community. She indicated they have received commitments from four or five different groups and are starting to put together a calendar. She stated she reached out to the county, and they are being supportive as well with some of the supplies needed.

*Report placed on file.*

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Larson, second by Diny to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm.

*For full meeting video on YouTube:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROyMa4syVy0&list=PLTKmYFdlHPXfyScWE6n7EdxOCQjmuECIv>