

**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Date and Time: Monday, June 17, 2024, at 5:15 p.m., Council Chambers

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen (C), Lou Larson (VC), Sarah Watson, Carol Lukens

Members Excused: Becky McElhaney

Others Present: Mayor Diny, Matt Barnes, Todd Baeten, Peter Fish, Justin Pluess, Tracy Rieger, Tegan Troutner, Kaitlyn Bernarde, Kody Hart

Noting the presence of a quorum Chairperson Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

**Approve minutes of a previous meeting (05/20/2024).**

Motion by Larson, seconded by Lukens, to approve. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Jeremy Connors, applicant for New Public Transportation License appeared to appeal the denial recommendation.

Rasmussen stated that the totality of the record and unsettled cases pending are concerning.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Lukens, to accept or deny licenses as recommended by staff. Motion carried 4-0.

**Presentation and discussion regarding operator's licensing requirements.**

*Presentation placed on file.*

**Wausau Fire Department update.**

*Update placed on file.*

**Discussion and possible action regarding a letter of concern for compliance issues at The Domino Bar.**

Rasmussen stated difficulty to allow an establishment to hold a quota alcohol license while it intends to not open.

The owners of The Domino Bar stated an intent to sell and had requested 90 days to hold the license but not open as a sale commences. Rasmussen stated that the establishment should be open as to not violate the abandonment ordinance.

Larson stated agreement with Rasmussen's statements and further stated the establishment had already been closed for close to 90 days and an extension is unacceptable.

Lukens questioned what prevents the establishment from opening. It was stated that difficulties with previous employees had caused the establishment to appear as if it was permanently closed online.

Rasmussen stated that an effort must be made to open and remain open to show that the license is being used. Rasmussen requested that a provisional license be granted if the establishment owners apply for renewal of their current alcohol license and meet the requirements for renewal.

**Tavern Activities Report - May 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024**

Rasmussen stated the committee is most interested in seeing in this report if there is a pattern of concern and incidents specifically related to the establishment's ability to conduct business under the licenses granted to them.

*Report placed on file.*

**Community Outreach Update**

Rasmussen stated support for experienced officers to be assigned to the downtown area where homelessness is a particular issue, and commended the new officers for addressing not only incidents which happen but also making connections with unhoused individuals to prevent future incidents and seek services. It was stated the department should bring any policy roadblocks of these efforts to the committee to work on. Rasmussen requested more data on contact and arrest/citations to address concerns brought up in past discussions of the Common Council.

Lukens requested more information on diversion programs and other processes that can help unhoused individuals and provide an opportunity out of homelessness. Lukens questioned if there was any other information which could

be provided by a previously unhoused individual that spoke. It was stated that shelters in the city were not safe for vulnerable individuals and that the threats made within the shelter climate provide a barrier to rehousing individuals.

Rasmussen requested that a representative from the day and night shelter be present at future committee meetings to speak on those concerns as those facilities must be made safe.

*Report placed on file.*

**Adjourn**

Motion by Larson, seconded by Watson, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

*For full meeting video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cymJfaSNLw>*