

## **PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Date and Time: Monday, February 20, 2023, at 5:15 pm, (Council Chambers)

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

Others Present: Tara Alfonso, Ben Bliven, Jeremy Kopp, Tracy Rieger, Kaitlyn Bernarde, Mary Goede, Andrew Lynch, Brad Lenz, Katie Rosenberg

### **Minutes of previous meetings. (1/16/23)**

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

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

Lisa Rasmussen indicated there were five denial recommendations, two for Operator/Bartender and three for Public Transport Driver licenses. Operators: Abedalraham Sughayer, Stacie Edgren; and Transport Drivers: Michael Campobello, David Vargas, Darrius Williams.

Abedalraham Sughayer, 1757 Cty Rd X, Kronenwetter, addressed the committee stating the record was correct but he felt he has learned from the mistake of the past and was hoping to get the license. Rasmussen stated he can still work without a license if there is another licensed person present to supervise.

Chief Bliven stated he stood by his denial recommendation and that the battery conviction was an exempt offense which does not allow for evidence of rehabilitation. He noted after the battery conviction were drug and OWI convictions in 2018.

It was noted that no other individuals recommended for denial present to appeal.

Rasmussen stated the Liquor License Review Subcommittee met and approved the license applications of 628 Diner LLC (Tyler Vogt) and Honest J's LLC (new owners of the Ugly Mug).

Rasmussen stated unless the committee moves to pull Mr. Sughayer from the list to vote on separately, he would remain a denial.

Motion by Larson, second by Henke to approve or deny licenses as recommended by staff. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Discussion and possible action on Resolution Supporting Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Security.**

Andy Lynch stated he would like to make one amendment to the staff memo to include that the Strategic Plan, under Innovative Public Services Objective 4: Invest in solutions to ensure environmental sustainability for generations to come; and the Performance Measure: Identifies sustainability goals and develop a plan to achieve them.

Lynch stated the Sustainability, Energy, & Environment Committee (SEEC) has been working on this resolution for some time and it asks us to set a long-term goal of 100% clean energy for municipal operations by 2050. This is a goal that is in line with the Department of Energy and various other national and international groups. Also, to direct and support staff and the committee to create the plan and determine the current city energy use and what part of that is greenhouse gas emissions; then use that information to determine what steps to take to start to lower and/or remove it. Through that process we want to be an example for other communities, residents, and businesses in the city on how to do that and provide some type of support and guidance. He provided an example of where the city changed the lights in the parking garages to LED lights which resulted in savings. This is a good example of how to incorporate efficiency upgrades and new technologies to either reduce the burden on the tax levy or invest in other upgrades and changes. Rasmussen added that the Water Utility is looking into a solar field and has a task force working on it.

Rasmussen pointed out this resolution from a policy standpoint is only relevant to municipal government operations. We don't have the power or authority to dictate to private enterprises what they do or to individuals how they operate their homes. She felt our goal is to become a little less dependent on things that damage the environment.

Doug Diny questioned what resources the city would provide to residents and businesses. Lynch stated it would be informational resources and direction to programs and/or grants to apply for to get funds.

Rasmussen questioned if grant and funding opportunities may open up for the city as part of Bipartisan Infrastructure Act if we were to pass such a resolution and formulate such a plan. Lynch responded funding opportunities may be easier to obtain and there is one grant in particular that gave an option to submit an already created plan or complete a worksheet to show what the community has done.

*Public comment was given in support of the resolution.*

Diny questioned if there was a deadline set to determine the level of energy use and greenhouse gases used in the city government and who would be directed to do it and pay for it. Lynch stated they did not have a definite timeline yet but think there is some staff time to use to gather the information and narrow it down. The WLGCC is working on providing some software and other technical assistance to help model and track it. There is also a grant from the Department of Energy called Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant which as a time and staff saving measure they are offering as a voucher to use for technical assistance from the EPA.

Motion by Larson, second by McElhaney to approve the resolution. Motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and possible action approving update to City of Wausau's Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Policy, Accommodation Request Form, Notice and Complaint Form**

Rasmussen explained with the departure of Attorney Nathan Miller, the City Clerk Kaitlyn Bernarde will be taking over the ADA requirement management, so this is a housekeeping item to update the standard forms to reflect that change.

Motion by Henke, second by Diny to approve the forms. Motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and possible action regarding an Ordinance Amending Section 9.24.050 Safety and Peace Nuisances**

Attorney Tara Alfonso explained she was asked to do some research concerning our noise ordinances. There two ordinances, one is Section 9.04.030 Loud and unnecessary noises prohibited, which is typically used when police are called for a noise complaint. The other is Section 9.24.050(j) which is a part of our nuisance ordinance. The language didn't match up between the two ordinances or was somewhat vague, so this a housekeeping item to clarify the language.

Motion by Larson, second by Diny to approve the amendment. Motion carried 5-0.

**Operations Report from Fire Department January 2023**

Deputy Chief Jeremy Kopp commented they were enjoying the challenges of starting all the new firefighters. They will be purchasing one new ambulance and hope to purchase a second with budget surplus. *Report placed on file.*

**Tavern Activities Report – January 1, 2023 through January 31, 2023**

*No discussion, report placed on file.*

**Community Outreach Update**

Tracy Rieger reported for the month of January there were 194 unhoused individuals. She indicated the data came from Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, the Bridge Street Mission, the jail system, the Women's Community, and people still living outdoors. She stated of the 194 approximately 82% sought shelter in the month of January and about 18% remained outside. She noted the capacity of Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army combined is 53 and approximately 94% of the month was at capacity. The Salvation Army was at capacity only one night and Catholic Charities was at capacity almost 22 nights. The number of people that had to be turned away as a result of either ineligibility of program or capacity was 30 for Catholic Charities and 23 for Salvation Army. During the very cold days of January many people came together and collaborated to ensure the unhoused population was being served and there were zero gaps in service. Catholic Charities increased their capacity to 35 and Salvation Army increased capacity to 33 on those evenings; Open Door also extended their hours during that timeframe.

Rieger indicated she assisted in housing one individual for the month of January and re-housing two. She pointed out the importance of the need for case management, especially relating to re-housing. She stated to date 17 individuals have been housed off the streets since she started in September, with 100% of them still housed today. She commented this is a result of collaboration with Open Door, the Outreach Task Force, Catholic Charities, Northcentral CAP, all of the agencies in the city.

**Communications**

*None*

**Adjourn**

Motion by Larson, second by Henke to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.