

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Monday, July 17, 2023, at 5:15 pm, (Council Chambers)

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

Excused: Becky McElhaney

Others Present: Tara Alfonso, Ben Bliven, Jeremy Kopp, Tracy Rieger, Kaitlyn Bernarde, Mary Goede, Katie Rosenberg, Kody Hart

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, at approximately 5:17 p.m., Chairperson Rasmussen called the meeting to order.

Minutes of previous meetings. (06/19/2023)

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

Consider approval or denial of various license applications

Lisa Rasmussen stated there were denial recommendations for applicants for Operator/Bartender Licenses: Donna Brown, and Morgan Sykes; and for Public Transport Driver Licenses: Damien Martinez. It was noted that no applicants were present to appeal.

Rasmussen stated that there was a Class A Liquor Application: For Frenchie Sake, LLC, owner Jennifer Phillipson doing business as Grand Ave Artifactory, 2312 Grand Avenue. She will be selling wine baskets.

Rasmussen stated the Liquor License Review Subcommittee met immediately before this meeting, with the applicants, to consider applications for the only available Class B Beer & Liquor License: 100 Proof Management LLC, owner John Troemel with a business name yet to be determined on the premise address of 102 Jefferson Street; and Onora Hotels, LLC, owners Juan Casarrubias and Lesli Iverson doing business as Venado Craft Beer on the premise address of 209 Grant Street. Rasmussen stated the unanimous vote of the Liquor License Review Subcommittee to move forward on the recommendation of Onora Hotels, LLC, owners Juan Casarrubias and Lesli, to receive the standard available Class B Beer & Liquor License. The receiving applicant was chosen due to having an open and operating business that was ready to use the Class B License upon receiving it.

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

Consider recommendation(s) from Liquor License Review Subcommittee for applications for Class B Beer & Liquor

Rasmussen ruled that this item was considered with the previous motion to approve or deny licenses as recommended by staff. Onora Hotels, LLC is acknowledged as the recipient of the Class B Beer & Liquor License.

Operations Report from Fire Department June 2023

Deputy Chief Kopp announced the closing of the month's employment opportunity window, and they did not select any of the applicants as they are looking for people with the right fit for the department. They are working with the City Human Resources Department to engage in other employment opportunity windows in the future.

Kopp stated the department is continuing to work with CAAS Accreditation. They have resolved compliance issues to seek the accreditation and are awaiting documentation. They hope to be on the agenda for CAAS Accreditation in August.

Report placed on file.

Tavern Activities Report – June 1, 2023 through 30, 2023

Chief Bliven discussed compliance checks that were carried out on 7 establishments, with 5 of the establishments failing the checks as they sold alcohol to an underage person. Citations were issued and demerit points on the establishments were also issued. Bliven stated that since the COVID-19 pandemic, compliance checks were not

regularly carried out and the numerous violations outlined in the report could be due to establishments not being used to the checks. The remainder of the report was discussed.

Larson acknowledged Jalapeno's Bar and Restaurant for having demerit points dropped off their record. Rasmussen clarified that the points dropped were due to enough time passing since their last compliance violation and that they hope to see continued improvement.

Report placed on file.

Community Outreach Update

Tracy Rieger, Outreach Coordinator, disseminated the report for which the information included did not include data from the Salvation Army due to staffing issues at that organization. Rieger reported 209 unhoused individuals in the community. She pointed out that the number of nights that both shelters reached capacity was very low. Catholic Charities reported achieving full capacity in 6 nights of the last month which indicates unhoused individuals are seeking shelter at the Salvation Army or other resources, they reported that 13% of individuals were turned away due to late arrivals and 87% were turned away due to capacity. Salvation Army has more turn aways due to more data-points examined when intaking individuals. Rieger reported housing 2 individuals in the last month for a total of 31 individuals that have successfully been helped to find housing. Three individuals she had previously housed became unhoused again. Rieger stated she will continue to work with those individuals to seek housing for them.

Rieger updated the committee that she is working on the Housing Task Force with Jeff Handcock, Craig Vincent, and Donna Ambrose to develop a severe weather plan for the winter and the summer as well. Rieger hopes to have the plan ready for the task force to consider in August.

Larson asked for more information on the closing of the Open Door organization. Chief Bliven confirmed their closing on the previous Friday due to the resignation of an Executive Director. Bliven answered that the Open Door Board of Directors are working to fulfill that role again. Discussion followed.

Report placed on file.

Fire Operations Report, Tavern Report, and the Community Outreach Update available in online packet:
<https://www.wausauwi.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/9090>

Adjournment

Motion by Larson, second by Henke to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0.
Meeting adjourned at 5:37 pm.

For full meeting video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtU15ASvuZo>