

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE
Monday, April 10, 2017 – 6:15 P.M.
Lincoln Center – 1519 Water Street**

Present: Alderpersons: Johnson, Ryan, Dugan, McComb and Morrow

Also

Present: Mayor Wiza; City Attorney Beveridge; City Clerk Moe; Comptroller/Treasurer Ladick; Alderpersons Doxtator, Shorr, Oberstadt, Slowinski, Kneebone and Phillips; Directors Schrader, Ostrowski and Lemke; Police Chief Skibba; Fire Chief Finn; Bob Fisch; Hana Cutler; Mary Ann Laszewski; Chris Thompson; John Pawlak; Tori Jennings; Stephanie Brooks; Jenny Peterson; Travis Hanes; Brandi Makuski – City Times; Nate Enwald - Gazette

1. License List:

A. New Operator's (Bartender's) Licenses.

B. Temporary Class "B" / "Class B" License (Picnic):

i. Wisconsin League of Musky Anglers, 1816 Julie Lane, Stevens Point, for Wisconsin League of Musky Angler Sign Up Meeting at the Pfiffner Building, 501 Franklin Street. Licensed operator on premise: Josef Wojchielowski. (Beer Only)

ii. Central Wisconsin Children's Museum, 1100 Main Street, Stevens Point, for Happy Hour at the Museum at 1100 Main Street. (Beer and Wine)

iii. St. Stephen Parish, 1401 Clark Street, Stevens Point, for St. Stephen Family Fest at 1335 Clark Street. Licensed operator on premise: Gary Marquard. (Beer and Wine)

C. "Class B" Combination Beer and Liquor License: Hotels of America, LLC, for Cobblestone Hotel & Suites – Wisconsin Chophouse, 1117 Centerpoint Drive, Stevens Point for license period beginning July 1, 2017.

D. Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage and "Class C" Wine License: Elemental Peace LLC, for Emy J's, 1009 First Street, Stevens Point for license period beginning April 11, 2017.

E. Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage License: PABS POINT AREA BICYCLE SERVICE, LLC, for Point Area Bicycle Service, 1319 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point for license period beginning May 16, 2017.

F. Change of Agent: PH Hospitality Group, LLC, 2120 Pewaukee Road Suite 200, Waukesha, Kara L. Taschner, 2600 Sunset Boulevard Apt 1, Stevens Point, WI; agent at Pizza Hut, 417 Division Street.

Ald. Dugan asked for further explanation on the request for a beer license for Point Area Bicycle Service.

John Pawlak, 1909 Minnesota Avenue, explained that he has two locations which are located next to each other. He stated 1311 Strongs Avenue is the location of the bicycle service. He would like to add an entertainment venue at 1319 Strongs Avenue.

Ald. McComb does not want to encourage bicyclists to ride intoxicated.

Mr. Pawlak said he would like to showcase local talent and serve locally made beers during these events.

Ald. Morrow asked if food would be served.

Mr. Pawlak said he does not plan on serving food.

Bob Fisch, 1033 Smith Street, reviewed the culture of bicycling. He said the bicycle shop is a place for this group to connect in the community. Mr. Fisch supports approval of this request.

Tori Jennings, 1632 Ellis Street, strongly supports this request as it is a great safe venue for this community.

Ald. McComb **moved**, Ald. Ryan seconded, to approve the license list.

Call for the vote: Ayes, all; nays, none; motion carried.

The Public Protection Committee meeting was recessed at 6:28 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:32 p.m.

2. Request to Hold Event/Street Closings:

A. Special Olympics State Summer Games – June 8-10, 2017. Closure of portions of Reserve Street (starting on June 7, 2017) and Illinois Avenue.

Ald. Dugan **moved**, Ald. Morrow seconded, to approve the request.

Call for the vote: Ayes, all; nays, none; motion carried.

3. Discussion on Rental Licensing Program (Discussion only).

Ald. Johnson said this is the beginning of discussion on this item and no action will be taken.

Director Ostrowski said the City has had a rental licensing program for a number of years. He said the reason this was before the Committee was to review the program and see how the City would like to proceed in the future. The Council could decide to continue the program as is, expand inspections to other types of rentals or move to a complaint driven approach. The Director said there are over 5,000 rental units in the City.

Ald. Dugan said she is delighted to see this come forward. She appreciates all the research conducted on this topic. The alderperson said she would like to find a way to legally license and afford to complete inspections.

Ald. Ryan said he feels it is the City's obligation to provide quality and safe housing. He noted that over occupancy is another concern.

Ald. Morrow said cost is a large concern.

Mayor Wiza said this is for all rentals not just college housing. He said it will cost a lot of money for the inspections but he agrees the City has a responsibility to provide safe housing for residents. The Mayor noted that if the City charges larger fees for the inspections to cover the cost of additional staff, these fees will most likely be passed on as higher rental rates.

Ald. Johnson agreed that any time there is a fee, it is passed onto the consumer. She said the City would like to continue to provide affordable housing to those who need it.

Mayor Wiza said the City can only conduct an inspection if the occupant allows inspectors in.

Ald. Johnson said the occupants may be hesitant to do this.

Ald. Dugan said this topic has come up in the past and some landlords want inspections.

Ald. McComb said renting units is a business and it would only be fair to inspect them. She also noted that some issues are with the tenants in which case the property owners could be made aware of any issues when the property is inspected.

Ald. Shorr said he owned a rental unit in a different city and inspections were completed every two years for a fee.

Ald. Phillips asked if the City would be liable if something is missed during an inspection.

City Attorney Beveridge said he does not believe the City would face any liability issues.

Chief Finn said tenants are afraid to call and complain. He encouraged the Committee to consider directing the Community Development office and Fire Department to come before the Council with a plan to make sure everyone is living in safe housing in the City of Stevens Point.

Mayor Wiza asked Chief Finn to talk about the smoke detector program.

Chief Finn said anyone that needs a smoke detector or has a detector that is over 10 years old can contact the Fire Department for a new one. The Fire Department will install the smoke detector and perform a safety check of the house.

Ald. Slowinski said this is a good idea and needs to be explored further. He said five years between inspections is too long.

Mary Ann Laszewski, 1209 Wisconsin Street, suggested including a disclosure with the inspection that the City does not assume responsibility for citing all code and safety violations. She said she supports this potential policy.

Ald. Morrow asked how often the City should conduct inspections.

Ms. Laszewski replied three years would be a good compromise.

Travis Haines, Candlewood Property Management, said everyone wants to provide safe housing. He said they inspect their units annually. Mr. Haines said if safety is the issue then all homes should be inspected. He said a better option would be for the City to educate the renters and create a way for them to make a complaint against a noncompliant landlord.

Ald. Morrow asked that staff create some recommendations.

4. Committee members' ideas for future agenda items. (Topics introduced under this item will not be discussed at this meeting.)

Ald. Johnson said for next month, she has asked Chief Skibba to provide information on the most utilized overnight parking areas and Director Ostrowski for information on notices issued for parking on grass and front yards.

5. Adjournment.

Adjournment at 7:07 p.m.