

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE AGENDA
Monday, January 8, 2018 – 6:37 P.M.
Police Department, 933 Michigan Avenue**

Present: Alderpersons: Oberstadt, Johnson, Dugan, McComb and Phillips

Also

Present: Mayor Wiza; City Attorney Beveridge; Comptroller/Treasurer Ladick; City Clerk Moe; Alderpersons Jennings, Nebel, and Morrow; Directors Schrader, Beduhn, Lemke and Ostrowski; Chief Skibba; Asst. Chief Rottier; Chief Finn; Lynn Schulist; David Bakken; Amy Bakken; Cassie Lennor – Portage County Gazette

Discussion and Possible Action on the Following:

1. License List:

- A. New Operators (Bartenders) Licenses.**
- B. Temporary Class "B" / "Class B" License (Picnic):** Bill Cook Chapter – IWLA, P.O. Box 582, Stevens Point, for 54th Annual Winter Jamboree on February 3, 2018 at 4001 Patch Street along McDill Pond. Licensed operator on the premise: Tracy Raatz. (Beer only)
- C. Change of Agent:**
 - i. Schierl Sales Corp., 2201 Madison Street, Stevens Point, Sarah Harry, E1355 W. Riverhill Drive, Iola, WI; agent at The Store #51, 708 Division Street replacing Miranda Hicks.**
 - ii. Schierl Sales Corp., 2201 Madison Street, Stevens Point, Heidi Pitzrick, 3983 Third Street, Amherst Jct, WI; agent at The Store #58, 5601 Carrie Frost Drive, Suite B, replacing Nya Stalter.**

Ald. Johnson **moved**, Ald. McComb seconded, to approve the license list as presented.

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

2. Request to Hold an Event/Street Closings:

- A. Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra – CWSO White Dinner on June 21, 2018. Request closure of the Downtown Square.**
- B. Point Bock Run Inc. – Annual Point Bock Run on March 3, 2018. Requesting temporary road closures on sections of Water Street and West River Drive and parking restrictions on sections of Francis Street, Henrietta Street and Whiting Avenue.**

Amy Bakken, 6067 Sharonwood Lane, said this is the third year for this event. She said participants dress in white and bring their own picnic dinner. She said there will be music and an auction.

Ald. Phillips **moved**, Ald. Johnson seconded, to approve both of the events.

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

3. Appeal of service charge for property maintenance violations:

A. 601 Bliss Street

Dir. Ostrowski said the landlord did not provide notification to the tenant in a timely manner. He said the charges are sent to and are the responsibility of the property owner. He said it is the duty of the property owner to notify the tenant to address the situation.

Ald. Johnson asked for clarification on the notification procedure.

Dir. Ostrowski said his department is now working to notify both the tenant and the landlord. He said he is hoping that by notifying both parties it will clear up any confusion.

Ald. Dugan hoped that in addition to notifying both the property owner and tenant, a notice could be left on the door.

Ald. McComb said she thought a pink slip was a great idea but worries it may fall off the door. She said she has noticed a lack of communication between the landlord and tenant in a number of cases. Ald. McComb said she hopes by sending notices to both parties will encourage more communication.

Ald. Johnson **moved**, Ald. McComb seconded, to deny the claim.

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

B. 1540 Clark Street

Dir. Ostrowski said the landlord gave the tenant the notice the day before it was due. He said the violation was for having garbage around the garbage cart.

Ald. McComb said in this situation the appeal should be brought to the landlord for the late notice, not the City.

Ald. McComb **moved**, Ald. Dugan seconded, to deny the claim.

Zach Weber, 1540 Clark Street, said the landlord notified the tenants at 8:20 p.m. saying they would be receiving the fine even though the landlord received the notice two weeks prior. He said he and the other tenants did not realize this was an issue until less than 12 hours prior to the deadline.

Ald. Jennings said this is a student rental in her district and inquired about landlords providing renters pamphlets on City Ordinances. She said it is on the renters for knowing the rules and being a good neighbor.

Ald. Nebel said there needs to be better education about the ordinances. She also suggested if garbage is piling up to talk with the landlord about getting a bigger garbage can.

Zach Weber, 1540 Clark Street, said he and the other tenants have spoken with the landlord a number of times about getting a another garbage can but have been denied each time. He also believes the City should do more to educate students about City ordinances.

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

C. 2620 Welsby Avenue

Dir. Ostrowski said there was a couch left on the curb and it was tagged with a pink tag. He said the tenants were moving out and the landlord was not aware that the tenant left furniture.

Ald. McComb said the landlord could have withheld the security deposit from the tenant to pay for the charge.

Ald. McComb **moved**, Ald. Johnson seconded, to deny the claim.

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

4. Ordinance Amendment – Standing Rules and Officials, Boards, Employees – Amend Appointment Process for Chairpersons of the Standing Committees (Sections 2.28 and 3.14(1) of the RMC).

Ald. Oberstadt read a statement submitted by Former Alderperson Garrett Ryan supporting the proposed ordinance amendment that is needed to have balance of power between branches of City government and to maintain proper transparency.

Ald. Dugan said she was contacted by a constituent who supports the members electing the Committee Chair after he reviewed this issue.

Ald. Johnson supports this ordinance amendment as the City would want to leave a legacy of openness and fairness.

Ald. Jennings said this ordinance amendment would allow committees to select their own chairs rather than having chairs appointed by the Mayor. She said maintaining a balance of power between the executive and legislative branches in municipal government helps strengthen democracy and creates a more efficient government. The alderperson said changing the appointment process of standing committees was actually introduced back in 2013 and had the support of then Ald. Wiza, Ald. Beveridge and Ald. Phillips. She contacted a few municipalities for comparison and Oshkosh, Madison, La Crosse and Wausau committee members, in most cases, select their own Chairs. She thanked the Committee for considering this ordinance amendment.

City Attorney Beveridge noted that changing the manner of selecting a Chair would only require a simple majority.

Ald. Dugan said she thought it was unusual that the Vice-Chair is selected by the Committee but not the Chair.

Ald. McComb said this is one way the Alderpersons can get more political capital.

Ald. Slowinski opposes the ordinance amendment. He said the Council currently has final approval of the Mayor's appointments.

Ald. Shorr supports this issue in terms of balance of power and transparency.

Michael O'Meara, 1809 Clark Street, said the Mayor is elected at large by the citizens of Stevens Point as opposed to the alderpersons that are elected by one certain area of residents. He said a good method to follow is to set something up so there is representation of many points of view. Mr. O'Meara said one thing you can do when appointing the Chair is to balance the Committees and the person who is elected at large has the best ability to do that.

Mayor Wiza said this is not about power, it is about doing what is best for the citizens of Stevens Point. He said the Committee members should be asking themselves how this improves the City. The Mayor noted that the memo states that the Chair will be confirmed by the Council; however, the proposed ordinance does not allow for this.

Ald. Jennings said the draft says that it will be confirmed by the council.

Mayor Wiza said this proposed wording does not say the Council approves those Chairs.

City Attorney Beveridge said the Committees are thought to be advisories to the Council and their actions need to be confirmed by the Council. He said the paragraph in the ordinance is silent as to whether the Chair appointments need to be confirmed by the Council. He said the best thing would be to decide if Council approval is needed.

Ald. Phillips said the current process is working and he opposes the ordinance amendment.

Ald. Phillips **moved**, to deny the request for the change in the ordinance on 2.28 municipal code. Motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Ald. Oberstadt said she does not think this will change very much because there is not a lot of opposition to the Mayoral list of appointments.

Ald. Johnson **moved**, Ald. Dugan seconded, to approve the amendment as presented.

Ald. Slowinski said our current system is not broken so why change it.

Ald. McComb said some things can be made better even if they are not broken.

Ald. Phillips asked how the Alderpersons will know who will be the best candidate for Chair.

Ald. Johnson said on the County Board, the individuals that want those positions give an explanation of their expertise and why they want that position.

Call for the vote: Ayes, majority; nays, minority; motion carried.

5. Adjournment.

Adjournment at 7:47 p.m.