

Meeting Minutes

Public Protection Committee

Monday, December 11, 2006, 6:00 P.M.

City Water Department, 300 Bliss Avenue

Present: Ald. Sevenich, Barber, Robinson, Trzebiatowski, Slowinski

Also Present: Clerk Moe, Mayor Wescott, C/T Schlice, City Attorney Molepske, Ald. Walther, Ald. Hanson, Ald. Wiza, Ald. Molski, Ald. Stroik, Ald. Moore, Chief Barnes, Chief Morris, Capt. Dowling, Director Gardner, Director Schrader, Director Halverson, Director Euclide, Assessor Kuehn, Specialist Jakusz, Elbert Rackow, Reid Rocheleau, Tom Jakusz, Pete Ananiadis, Gene Kemmeter (Gazette)

Index to these minutes:

1. Recommendation on license list: A. New Operator's licenses. B. Temporary Class "B"/"Class B" Retailer's licenses: 1) St. Casimir's Ponzcka Dance at Loyal Order of Moose on February 17, 2007. 2) St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish's Winter Carnival on February 18 and February 19, 2007.
2. Recommendation on six month "Class B" Beer and Liquor license for Johnny T's Club Tropicana.
3. Request to use firearms for the deer culling program.
4. Recommendation of the November 2006 Inspection Report: A. Construction Starts. B. Violations.
5. Adjournment.

1. Recommendation on license list.

A. New Operator's licenses.

B. Temporary Class "B"/"Class B" Retailer's licenses:

1) St. Casimir's Ponzcka Dance at Loyal Order of Moose on February 17, 2007.

2) St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish's Winter Carnival on February 18 and February 19, 2007.

Ald. Trzebiatowski moved, seconded by Ald. Barber, approval of the New Operator licenses and the Temporary Class "B"/"Class B" Retailer's licenses for St. Casimir's Ponzcka Dance at Loyal Order of Moose on February 17, 2007 and St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish's Winter Carnival on February 18, and February 19, 2007. Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Recommendation on six month "Class B" Beer and Liquor license for Johnny T's Club Tropicana.

Capt. Dowling stated this 6 month license was just to bring them in line with the other licenses that are issued annually. He noted that the Department has no problem with this license.

Ald. Barber moved, seconded by Ald. Robinson, approval of the renewal of the six month "Class B" Beer and Liquor license for Johnny T's Club Tropicana for the period of January 1, 2007 and end June 31, 2007. Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

3. Request to use firearms for the deer culling program.

Elbert Rackow, 1824 Gilkey Ave., stated that the vender hired to live-trap was not able to get any deer and resigned. The Committee than accepted a quote from an archer; thus far he and his assistant have not been able to cull any deer. They worked for twelve days and saw three deer, but have not culled any. The Committee is requesting the authority to accept a quote to cull deer through the use of firearms if the archer does not cull enough deer before we run out of funds. He said the use of firearms would begin in January when there is snow on the ground.

He continued saying some possible reasons for not culling any deer up to this point are that the deer have been educated to their tactics and the overall success of the program over the past years. He stressed that the DNR advises that culling must be done for at least five years to be effective and then it needs to continue in some form after that to control the population.

Police Chief Morris stated accidents in the City are down this year to almost the lowest on record. He also noted that most of the accidents are around the reserve and more on the outside parts of the City. He suggested that due to the time constraint, if the City is going to move forward on this that more planning is needed. He noted a study by a graduate student at the University of Stevens Point, which is now online, that says that deer are not a problem anymore for the community. The Chief suggested continuing with the archery program for this winter and work with the DNR and the University to do an analysis into what the City really needs.

Capt. Dowling, stated statistics of deer/vehicle accidents:

2002 22

2003 33

2004 16

2005 20

2006 17 with 11 within the last 6 weeks

In reviewing the graduate study and its comments on the Schmeackle reserve he found that 7 of the accidents were in that area, and five were on the outskirts of the City.

Ald. Robinson moved, seconded by Ald. Slowinski, to deny the request to use firearms in the deer culling program and maintain the current status with archery.

Ald. Robinson said he was not comfortable allowing the use of firearms within the City. Without an endorsement from the Police Department, he feels the Council should not even consider this and he is interested in seeing the study.

Ald. Barber stated there are a lot of regulations when using firearms and the City needs to get a list of all of them as well as make sure the person they hire knows what they are doing. He recommended that in the meantime the City should stick with the bow hunting.

Ald. Trzebiatowski said the current cost of archery is \$74.00 per deer. If the City is still looking to keep the same number of deer to be culled, the funding will have to be increased. The cost factor is why this was brought back to the committee. Originally, the cost of using archery was \$50.00 per deer and the City was able to obtain 60 deer for its budget of \$3,000. The only way now to reach that number is with the use of firearms.

Ald. Sevenich asked Ald. Robinson for clarification on his motion. She stated that his motion would not allow any sharp shooting at all.

Ald. Robinson responded that is correct.

Ald. Sevenich asked not even if after January they have not culled the number of deer they expected.

Ald. Robinson replied no. They would need to come to the Council for approval. He said he is not sure the use of firearms in the City is even warranted. We hear the deer population is decreasing, there are still problems, but these problems can be resolved with the use of archery.

Mayor Wescott agreed with Ald. Robinson. He commended the Deer Management Committee for their work. He believes there is greater success here than what is being acknowledged. The DNR five year plan is really a guideline and the committee may have had greater success in three. The fact that we have had hunters out 12 days and only saw three deer without the opportunity to shoot, says that they have had great success in the last three years. He also said he has asked the graduate student who did this study to make a formal presentation in January or February. He recommended that before we move to create new rules and rules of engagement, we should step back and see if the program to date has been as successful as the community was expecting. He was surprised at the number of people who were satisfied with the deer management program. He believes the research information should come before the Council and they can get a broader and more comprehensive approach for next fall.

Ald. Molski stated the deer are still out there in her District including by her house. During the past warm weather, the deer were not moving around that much. Perhaps that is a reason why the number of accidents are down. They are moving around in the dead of night.

Ald. Wiza asked the committee to look into the use of crossbows. The DNR representative that he has spoken to did not think there would be a problem using them. He said that with the lack of snow the deer have not needed to move down into the community. He believes that we are maintaining a level here and we don't need to aggressively pursue the deer. Only seeing three deer this year illustrates how well the program is working. Adding the use of firearms is not going to increase the number of deer they see.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street, believes the deer have been thinned out and he does not mind seeing a few deer. He asked if anyone has been cited for feeding deer.

Capt. Dowling said about a half a dozen since the feeding ban went into effect. Most didn't know of the ban.

Ald. Wiza asked if the Department could work with Alderpersons that get complaints and target those areas for culling and get permission from the homeowner.

Ald. Sevenich stated in the past the Culling committee did ask if anyone had received complaints to call them and they would follow up.

Elbert Rackow wanted to qualify his statement of the number of deer the hunters saw. He said they saw three during shooting hours. After hours they saw lots of them. The regulations change if they are allowed to use firearms such as being able to use bait. He also said the accident numbers presented are incomplete. The Deer Management committee feels using numbers by the month does not reflect an accurate picture due to a spike in the later months of the year.

Ald. Hans Walther expressed his support of the motion. In the past he has had complaints regarding deer but in the last couple of months people have been really happy with what has been done. But they also don't want the deer culling program to come to an end.

Tom Jakusz, 5208 Heffron Court, said that he was the deer culler for the past three years and he did not bid on this year for the main reason that he did not think there was \$3,000 worth of deer in the City. He said the difference with using firearms is that they are allowed to use bait and shoot at night. If he was a voter of Stevens Point he would not want someone in his yard or neighborhood with a rifle. As soon as that rifle is loaded there is a chance of an accident. He feels the only places the use of firearms would be successful would be at the airport and out on HH. But those deer will be shot by hunters and are not the ones going into people's yards. He suggested the committee push the DNR to allow bow hunting at night.

CALL FOR THE VOTE: Ayes: Barber, Robinson, Trzebiatowski, Slowinski; Nays: Sevenich; Motion carried.

4. Recommendation of the November 2006 Inspection Report:

A. Construction Starts.

B. Violations.

Ald. Sevenich moved, seconded by Ald. Slowinski, approval of the Inspection Report for November 2006 and to have it placed on file. Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

The meeting minutes reproduced on this website are derived from the computer files used to produce the official minutes for the City of Stevens Point, but are unofficial. The minutes on this web site cannot be certified under s. 889.08, Wis. Stats., and cannot be considered prima facie evidence under s. 889.04, Wis. Stats. Certain tables, maps, and other documents that are a part of the official minutes are not included in the files reproduced on this website. Please consult the printed minutes, available in the City Clerk's Office, for the official text. The decisions made by City of Stevens Point boards, committees, and commissions (other than the Police & Fire Commission) are advisory only and are not binding on the city until affirmed at a meeting of the Common Council. Some of the minutes on this web site might not be approved by the Common Council as of today.

Bottom of Form