

Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Monday, August 11, 2003 - 6:00 P. M.

City Water Department - 300 Bliss Avenue Present: Chairman Phillips, Alderpersons Sevenich, Sowieja, Stroik

Excused: Ald. Seiser

Also Present: Mayor Wescott, Comptroller-Treasurer Schlice, Clerk Zdroik, Directors Disher, Gardner, Schrader; City Surveyor Hild, Alderpersons Walthers, Markham, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Moore; Fire Chief Barnes, Police Captain Dowling, Street Superintendent Krieski, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Laidlaw, Mayoral Assistant Gebert, Kate Garsombke (Journal), Gene Kemmeter (Portage County Gazette)

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1. Recommendation on License list.

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

B. Recommended Rejection - Andrew Scott Rockman, 2209A Clark Street, Stevens Point, WI.

C. Temporary Class "B"/"Class B" Retailer's License:

(1) Portage County Business Council, 5501 Vern Holmes Drive, Stevens Point, WI, for Wines of the World event on Friday, October 17, 2003, from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at the Noel Hangar, Highway 66, Stevens Point, WI.

D. Application for Class "A"/"Class A" Beer/Intoxicating Liquor License - Stevens Point Area Co-op, 633 Second Street, Stevens Point, WI, Maggie Woodside, Agent, 6770 Cty. Rd TT, Amherst, WI 54406, effective August 19, 2003.

2. Discussion and possible action on culling of deer herd.

3. Request to serve beer - 17th Annual Spud Bowl, Goerke Football Field, on Saturday, September 27, 2003, from 3:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

4. Request permission to hold homecoming parade:

A. Pacelli High School on Friday, September 26, 2003, starting at 5:30 P.M.

B. UW-SP on Saturday, October 11, 2003, starting at 10:00 A.M.

5. Request to install street lights:

A. Intersections of Glacier Drive, Nicolet Avenue, and Heffron Street.

6. Recommendation on Inspection Report.

7. Adjournment.

1. Recommendation on License list.

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

Ald. Sevenich moved, Ald. Stroik seconded, to approve the New and Renewal Operator's (Bartender's) license list.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

B. Recommended rejection:

Andrew Scott Rockman - 2209 A Clark Street, Stevens Point, was notified of the meeting but did not appear to appeal the recommendation.

Ald. Stroik moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, to deny the Operator's (Bartender's) license application of Andrew Scott Rockman on the basis that the possession of drug paraphernalia has not reached its 3-year limit as per the City's guidelines.

Police Captain Dowling stated that attempts were made to contact Mr. Rockman but were not successful so the second step of the appeal process, which is to contact the applicant, did not take place.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

C. Temporary Class "B"/"Class B" Retailer's License:

(1) Portage County Business Council, 5501 Vern Holmes Drive, Stevens Point, WI, for Wines of the World event on Friday, October 17, 2003, from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at the Noel Hangar, Highway 66, Stevens Point, WI.

Ald. Sevenich moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, for approval of the Temporary Class "B"/"Class B" Retailer's License as outlined above.

Ald. Sevenich asked that event organizers that are using the Noel hangar notify the Airport Manager directly of events that will be happening at the airport.

Captain Dowling said there were two events at the Noel hangar last year and there were no problems.

Ald. Stroik questioned the licensed bartender for the August 19th Volunteer Recognition Picnic sponsored by the Portage County Business Council. It listed Andrew Rockman as a bartender. Mr. Rockman's application for an operator/bartender license was recommended for denial by the Public Protection Committee tonight.

Clerk Zdroik informed the Committee that the other designated bartender, Cade Wakefield has applied for an operator/bartender's license and the Police Department is still processing the application.

Rich Smaglik, Aviation Director for the Noel Group, commented on the direct notification of the Airport Manager of events happening at the Noel hangar. He said he cannot see the purpose. He thought that the City should be notified first and lock in the event before the Airport Manager is notified. He feels it was adequately done.

Chairman Phillips feels it is a good idea to notify the Airport Manager just in case there is a conflict at the airport.

Mr. Smaglik said there are not many events happening at the airport but he will see to it that the Noel Group makes an effort to contact the Airport Manager directly when such events come up again.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

D. Application for Class "A"/"Class A" Beer/Intoxicating Liquor License - Stevens Point Area Co-op, 633 Second Street, Stevens Point, WI, Maggie Woodside, Agent, 6770 Cty. Rd TT, Amherst, WI 54406, effective August 19, 2003.

Ald. Sowieja moved, Chairman Phillips seconded, to approve the Application for

Class "A"/"Class A" Beer/Intoxicating Liquor License for the Stevens Point Area Co-op, 633 Second Street, Stevens Point, WI, Maggie Woodside, Agent, 6770 Cty. Rd TT, Amherst, WI 54406, effective August 19, 2003.

Norah Ann Wienandt, Manager, Stevens Point Area Co-op said their plan is to sell natural organic wines and beers in closed containers in a small section of the store. She said that there is a clear line of sight between the cash registers and where the beer and wine will be located. The Co-op is never open past 8:00 o'clock in the evening and that it does not open until 9:00 o'clock in the morning. She added that on evenings and weekends, there are only two employees with two cash registers. To have another cash register in that department would be difficult because it would be necessary to pull an employee from one of the cash registers near the exit. So they are asking if one of the cash registers which is close enough to use as a register can be used for the sale of beer and wine.

Director Gardner said since they do not operate long hours, closing the area where beer and wine are sold and closing the main door is redundant. If they extend their hours, then they must provide for a separate room.

Ald. Sowieja asked whether selling beer and wine within less than 300 feet from the main entrance of any public or parochial school, hospital or church, is a problem.

Greg Hansel, President of the Stevens Point Area Catholic Schools, said he is not opposed to the sale of organic wine and beer by the Co-op. He stated that the Co-op has always been a good neighbor and not a problem at all. Their concern is they have the middle school in the area with 240 students. The students occasionally go to the Co-op and buy a few things. He wants to make sure that the students do not have access to where the alcohol products will be sold.

Chairman Phillips asked if St. Peter's Catholic Church has been contacted.

Clerk Zdroik said Father Schaller of St. Peter's Church is out of town and will not be back until Wednesday morning. She will request a letter from Father Schaller stating his position on the sale of organic wine and beer at the Co-op. This letter will be included in the council packet for the alderpersons' review.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Discussion and possible action on culling of deer herd.

Ald. Molski said she received more calls on this subject than anything else the entire time she has been on the Council. The deer are plentiful this year. She received calls throughout her district and throughout the City. The deer have cleaned up all the flowers and shrubs to a point that they are not tolerable anymore.

Ald. Rackow said he was on foot at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Maria Drive a couple of days ago where the university has been turning over soil. He observed a whole bunch of deer tracks in the area, an indication that there are too many deer.

Ruth Piffner, 708 Ridge Road, said she conducted a petition on Memorial Day and went to people's homes. She collected over 100 signatures. They now have deer documented walking up on people's front porches and walking up the stairs of several homes. There are people and pets in the area afflicted with limes disease. The people have tried products to keep the deer away and some put up fencing which cost a lot of money. People are just giving up. She suggested two options to eliminate the problem, either bring predators or bring hunters. She said it is not healthy for the animals or for the people and she is disappointed that the City has not done anything. She believes this is a very serious issue that needs attention.

Chairman Phillips, in response to Ms. Piffner's comment, stated that the City adopted a no deer feeding ordinance last year which is a necessary step.

Ald. Barr informed the Committee that he and Chairman Phillips attended a DNR seminar last month on the subject of deer herds. On the question of lime disease, the DNR brought up a very interesting fact. The infected tick is more apt to get infected from feeding on rodents such as field mice, chipmunks, or squirrels than it is from deer. So if lime disease is your fear, do not feel that eliminating deer will take care of the problem. The Alderman also said that he is in favor of the City entering into some kind of agreement to cull the herd.

Daniel Sivek, 308 Mary Ann Avenue, Stevens Point stated that they have lived at this address for three years and echoed a lot of what Ms. Piffner said. He has spent hundreds of dollars on landscaping, tree shrubs, and perennials. He added that the deer will eat anything especially in the spring time. It is frustrating to spend a lot of money and waking up in the morning to see a lot of tracks and little stubs of plants growing there. His other concern is car/deer collisions. He is hoping that the City will do something and he recommends a controlled hunt.

Mr. Sivek also submitted a letter to the Committee on behalf of Marianne Koch, 309 Mary Ann Avenue, about her concern on the number of deer in the area and what the deer cost her.

Ald. Sevenich said one weekend she received six calls about deer eating gardens. The call was from a man who relies on his garden for part of his livelihood. Last week the deer ate all his garden. She said at times she has anywhere from five to fourteen deer in her backyard and some as close as ten feet to the house. Because of that, she stopped feeding the birds.

Ald. Sevenich moved, Ald. Stroik seconded, to have the Deer Management Committee analyze and figure out what it will cost to cull the deer herd in the City and provide the same to the Finance Committee for its review and action next month.

Ald. Sowieja agrees there are a lot of deer in the City but we also have to realize that we will not totally eliminate the deer herd. His problem with the deer culling is the discussion about hiring professional hunters and he personally feels that the City has not taken any steps that could be taken. There are bigger cities that allow bow hunting within the City that is more controlled than what we have here in the City. Here in the City it seems like we have more restrictions on the number of areas where you can hunt and the type of deer that can be taken. He would also like the Deer Management Committee to look at the possibility of hunting on small City-owned properties. The Alderman feels that to save tax money, the City must institute some kind of program to allow bow hunting to a greater extent in the City.

Ald. Walther agrees that we have a problem with the deer in the City. He sees it on his way home from work on Highway 10. His greatest concern is the financial aspect of it. With the cutbacks from the State and all City departments cutting back and watching the dollars, it is a good idea to

explore this to a greater extent, the Alderman said. He is cautious about the amount of dollars that will be spent on this.

Ald. Moore stated that the culling of deer is done only inside the City limits. The deer are just going to keep coming into the City from the surrounding area. Unless we can get an area-wide management to control the herd, we will be just throwing our money away.

Chairman Phillips noted that the Village of Whiting has been culling deer for a few years now and it is working there. He went on to say that this recommendation will go before the council on Monday, August 18, and then go to the Finance Committee the following month.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

3. Request to serve beer - 17th Annual Spud Bowl, Goerke Football Field, on Saturday, September 27, 2003, from 3:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Ald. Sowieja moved, Ald. Stroik seconded, to approve the request to serve beer at the 17th Annual Spud Bowl at Goerke Football Field on Saturday, September 27, 2003, from 3:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

4. Request permission to hold homecoming parades:

A. Pacelli High School on Friday, September 26, 2003, starting at 5:30 P.M.

B. UW-SP on Saturday, October 11, 2003, starting at 10:00 A.M.

Ald. Stroik moved, Ald. Sevenich seconded, to approve the requests to hold homecoming parades for Pacelli High School and UW-SP, as outlined above.

Ald. Sevenich asked that Pacelli High School provide the Committee with the name of a teacher or advisor who is of legal age and is in charge of this event.

Clerk Zdroik will call Pacelli and provide the information to the Alderpersons at the Council meeting on Monday, August 18.

Captain Dowling said a point of concern is that Main Street is not going to be open by the time Pacelli hold its parade. The Police Department will work with event organizers with their routes. The Police Department can make it work but Pacelli has to realize it is not problem free.

Clerk Zdroik will contact the event organizers and advise them to contact the Police Department on an alternate parade route.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

5. Request to install street lights:

A. Intersections of Glacier Drive, Nicolet Avenue, and Heffron Street.

Captain Dowling said two intersections already have lights. The Police Department is asking that if the City will consider putting lights there, that it be placed in the unmountable median strip with double headed lights that will give greater coverage to the road while keeping the same number of lights.

City Surveyor Hild said it can be done. Cost is the only object. It will cost \$3000 a pole. He also said that there will be added costs if the lights are put on the median because the City has to put in underground conduit and a lot is more involved. He said the Public Works Department will not recommend or deny the request.

Ald. Barr said he is of the understanding that the three lights in the median will not cost as much as the six proposed. Ald. Barr asked that the request be tabled.

Ald. Rackow suggested to go ahead with the motion and the cost be provided before the Council meeting so it can be approved before the ground freezes.

Ald. Sowieja moved, Ald. Stroik seconded, to table the street light request until next month's meeting.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Recommendation on Inspection Report.

Ald. Sevenich moved, Chairman Phillips seconded, to accept the July Inspection Report and place it on file.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. Adjournment - 6:40 P.M.

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