

Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 10, 2000 - 6:00 P. M.

City Water Department - 300 Bliss Avenue Present: Chairman Niedbalski, Alderpersons Sevenich, Walther, Nealis, Phillips

Also Present: Mayor Wescott, City Attorney Molepske, C/T Schlice, Clerk Zdroik, Directors Gardner, Schrader, Van Alstine; Alderpersons Pazzernik, Perlak, Kedrowski, Barr, Aldinger; Police Chief Carpenter, Police Captain Daubert, Mayoral Assistant Bumgarner, Alderperson-Elect Seiser, Alderperson-Elect Molski, Susan Kampmeier (Journal), Gene Kemmeter (Portage County Gazette), Scott Krueger (WIZD)

1. License list.

Ald. Walther moved, Ald. Sevenich seconded, to approve the new operator s (provisional), renewal (2-year) operator license, taxicab driver s license, temporary Class "B"/"Class B" retailer s license, transfer of "Class B" beer and liquor license, and transfer of Class "B" beer license.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

Recommended rejection of operator s (bartender s) license.

Mark A. Konkel did not appear.

Ald. Sevenich moved, Ald. Phillips seconded, to deny the operator s (bartender s) license application for Mark A. Konkel,

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Ordinance amending the Truancy Ordinance (providing for lowering age of juveniles and providing penalties against parents).

City Attorney Molepske stated this ordinance will attempt to prevent underage children from not attending school. It was formulated through the cooperative effort of the School Administration, the City to a degree, and with help from the Police Department. This is a step to try to curb drug abusing behavior and to provide a punitive method for parents and for children who do not want to go to school.

Ald. Sevenich asked if there is a truant officer.

City Attorney said yes and no. The School Administration has someone designated to be in charge, but if the school does not get any cooperation from the parents and the child is not going to school, the child is then referred to the City and the Police Department issues the citation. This will encourage parents to send their children to school.

Ald. Sevenich moved, Ald. Walther seconded, to approve the ordinance.

Alderperson-elect Seiser asked if there is a truancy ordinance in place and if so what is the amendment. She also questioned the effect of this ordinance on home school.

Attorney Molepske said some of the definitions were changed but basically the ordinance says no person, having under his/her control a child who is between the ages of 6 and 18 years of age, shall allow that child to be in noncompliance with Section 118.15 of the Wis. Stats. or its successor statute. As far as home school, it is covered by statutes, the City Attorney said.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

3. Ordinance creating Drug Paraphernalia Ordinance (prohibits the use or possession of drug paraphernalia).

Police Chief Carpenter indicated that he is recommending the adoption of a municipal ordinance covering the possession of drug paraphernalia. Currently, this type of activity is not being charged civilly or criminally and therefore suggested that this activity be curbed to avoid drug proliferation. The City will be able to charge the offenders under the municipal law for the violation. This will enable the Police Department to get a lot of people who are under the age of 18 or over in the system who have never been in the system before.

Ald. Phillips asked the number of these cases that the Police Department handled in the last year.

Chief Carpenter said about half a dozen or more contacts were made where people were in possession of small quantities of marijuana or paraphernalia that did not get charged or end up in court.

Ald. Nealis feels the ordinance will make the situation better.

Ald. Nealis moved, Ald. Phillips seconded, to approve the ordinance.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

4. Ordinance amending the Bicycle Ordinance (making it applicable to Green Circle Trail).

The Police Department was made aware of the situation last year because of the number of complaints received about bicyclists abusing the use of Green Circle Trail. Some of the complaints were people going 20 to 25 miles an hour on the trail. The posted speed limit on the trail is 15 miles an hour. Some bicyclists do not announce themselves to the pedestrian traffic causing the pedestrian to be startled. This ordinance is needed to include the Green Circle Trail in the bicycle ordinance.

The Police Chief said another part of the ordinance is about bicycle licensing. Any resident of the City of Stevens Point who owns a bicycle is required by ordinance to purchase a bicycle license. If the bicycle owner is not a resident of the City, then that bicycle must be registered in the municipality where the owner resides, providing that jurisdiction has bicycle registration.

Registering bicycles is also important in recovering bicycles that have been stolen.

Ald. Nealis moved, Ald. Phillips seconded, to approve the ordinance.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

5. Request to use Municipal Lot 2 (bounded on the south and west by Crosby Avenue and on the east by Water Street) for the Fifth Annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament on Wednesday, July 26 through Sunday, July 30.

Police Captain Daubert said the Police Department has no problem with moving the 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament to Municipal Lot 2.

Director Van Alstine said there was no problem at the ShopKo parking lot but the organizer of the event would like to move it to a bigger area.

Joe Zuiker, one of the tournament organizers, said the tournament has been held at the ShopKo parking lot for the last four years. Due to the growth of the tournament, the tournament organizers are asking to move it from the ShopKo parking lot to Municipal Lot 2, located on the northwest corner of Crosby Avenue and Water Street. The new location will provide for 20 total courts and will allow more room for court layouts and viewer comfort. The added room will increase safety for participants and spectators. The tent stake marks in the ShopKo parking lot will also be eliminated.

Ald. Sevenich asked if there will be adequate parking for the participants or people who would come and watch?

Rob Rasmussen, General Manager, CenterPoint MarketPlace, said there will be adequate parking in the Bank One parking lot. There is also parking available across the street in the mall parking lot.

Ald. Phillips moved, Ald. Sevenich seconded, to approve the request.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Installation of street lights - Heffron Street from Leahy Avenue to Hoover Avenue.

Ald. Seiser asked for the possibility of using other lights like the shoebox light. She feels if the lights are not appropriate, the request for the installation of street lights not be approved at this time.

Ald. Kedrowski suggested referring the request to Public Works.

Ald. Barr asked if the City has ever been accused of using bad lights?

Director Van Alstine said he does not recall being accused of using bad lights. Some lights cause more pollution than others, the director said.

Chairman Niedbalski said the installation of street lights is being requested because it is dark in the area and it is a safety measure.

Chairman Niedbalski moved, Ald. Phillips seconded, to approve the request to install street lights on Heffron Street from Leahy Avenue to Hoover Avenue and to have Public Works check the street lights to see if they will be appropriate for the area.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. Inspection Report.

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

Ald. Phillips questioned the fees charged to a \$200,000 home and \$105,000 home. Why is there no difference?

Director Gardner said the City adopted an ordinance standardizing the fee.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Adjournment - 6:35 P.M.

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