

**CITY OF VERONA
PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE COMMITTEE
JUNE 8, 2020
VERONA CITY HALL
MINUTES**

1. Call to order: Heather Reekie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Heather Reekie, Katie Kohl and Evan Touchett were present. Also present: City Administrator Adam Sayre, Police Chief Bernie Coughlin and City Clerk Ellen Clark.
3. Approval of Minutes: Motion by Kohl, seconded by Touchett, to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2020 Public Safety and Welfare Committee meeting. Motion carried 3-0.
4. Discussion and Possible Action Re: An application for a combination Reserve “Class B” Intoxicating Liquor and Class “B” Fermented Malt Beverages license from Mr. Brews Taphouse Verona, LLC, d/b/a Mr. Brews Taphouse, 611 Hometown Circle, Suite 104, Verona, WI 53593, Ryan Swanson, Agent. Mr. Brews Taphouse, LLC currently carries Class “B” Fermented Malt Beverage and Class “C” Wine licenses. If this application is approved, the Class “C” Wine license will be replaced by a “Class B” Intoxicating Liquor license, which will allow for the service of any intoxicating liquor, versus wine only. The current licenses will be surrendered to the City before the new licenses will be issued.

Motion by Reekie, seconded by Touchett, to recommend to the Common Council to approve a combination Reserve “Class B” Intoxicating Liquor and Class “B” Fermented Malt Beverages license for Mr. Brews Taphouse Verona, LLC, d/b/a Mr. Brews Taphouse, 611 Hometown Circle, Suite 104, Verona, WI 53593, Ryan Swanson, Agent. Motion carried 3-0.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Re: A temporary premises description amendment for the liquor license of Toot & Kate’s LLC, d/b/a Toot & Kate’s Wine Bar, 109 S. Main Street, to include the front stoop area. Toot & Kate’s LLC has applied for a temporary premises description amendment to include the business’s front stoop area. This will allow them to serve more customers, while adhering to required social distancing guidelines.

Coughlin stated the business owners are requesting one table on the right and two tables on the left side of the entrance to 109 S. Main Street, as well as a table on each side of the front step on the sidewalk. In most cases we would require a gate and signage indicating where alcohol consumption is permissible. In this case, signage is not necessary. The first two tables would be on the right and the left of the entrance to the business. They are also requesting a third table to the north in front of the window or 107 S. Main Street. The owner of 107 S. Main Street provided permission for them to place a table there. The issue is that the service of alcohol must be viewed and monitored. This area cannot be seen from inside the wine bar. If the bartender would have to be diligent watching the table. Just north of that table, there should be some separation so people cannot enter from the 107 S. Main business or stoop. Two tables are also being requested below the stoop. If these tables are placed in the terrace, they will be right next to the street. If they are placed on the sidewalk, the sidewalk will be obstructed, forcing walkers to walk in the terrace. He does not recommend approval of the third table to the north on the stoop, or the tables on the sidewalk, though the third table on the stoop is possible, with modifications.

Touchett stated he is not in favor of tables on the sidewalk. He would be in favor of three tables on the stoop.

Coughlin replied the two or three tables on the stoop are a reasonable compromise. In addition, traffic noise gets sandwiched between the buildings, and makes it hard to have a conversation. We do want to work with them as much as possible, considering the COVID situation.

Kohl asked if they could have some tables on the sidewalk later in the day when there is less traffic.

Coughlin replied we need to be fair and consistent, with some guidelines that can be utilized for all businesses asking for premises amendments. If people are forced to walk on the terrace, there could be problems.

Kohl stated you could not get around there with a stroller or a wheelchair.

Reekie asked if they could use the alley to the south of the building.

Sayre replied the owner of the alley will not allow it.

Touchett does not think the sidewalk should be blocked in any way. He would like to use the stoop area, and allow three tables.

Kohl stated forcing people to walk on the terrace is not ADA compliant, and the terrace is very close to the road.

Touchett asked Coughlin if he would be comfortable with four tables on the stoop.

Coughlin replied it would be preferable to using the sidewalk and the terrace. The challenge it creates is you would have a table north of the 107 S. Main business door, and the bartender cannot view that area for service, so they will not know who is consuming alcohol at that spot. Perhaps that could be done for a limited time only.

Touchett would like to give them until October 1st, as was used for the Hop Haus. This is probably not an avenue for underage people to obtain drinks.

Kohl stated the clientele there would be unlikely to be passing drinks to underage people. She would like to see four tables on the stoop until October 1st.

Motion by Touchett, seconded by Kohl, to recommend to the Common Council to approve a temporary premises description amendment for the liquor license of Toot & Kate's LLC, 109 S. Main Street, to include the front stoop area only, with four tables for seating, restricted to 107 and 109 S. Main Street, until October 1, 2020. Motion carried 3-0.

6. Discussion and Possible Action Re: An amplification permit application from Hop Haus Brewing Company, LLC, 231 S. Main Street. Hop Haus Brewing Company, LLC is requesting an amplification permit to allow live music in the parking lot area of their premises, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. They anticipate this will take place two nights per week.

Coughlin has no concerns with the request.

Sara Hoechst asked permission to move the bands from the north side of the parking lot to the south side of the lot.

There were no concerns with her request.

Hoechst stated there will probably be bands only one night a week, as well as trivia on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m.

Motion by Kohl, seconded by Touchett, to approve an amplification permit application from Hop Haus Brewing Company, LLC, 231 S. Main Street. Motion carried 3-0.

7. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Approval of alcohol license applications for the 2020-2021 licensing period. Thirty-two applications for 2020-2021 retail alcohol license renewals were received by the City Clerk. Premises inspections by the building inspection and fire departments are ongoing, as they were delayed by COVID-19 restrictions. Approval of the applications will be contingent upon completion of building and fire inspections. A list of applicants is included in the Committee packet. Of those, the following has an unpaid invoice from the City for Police Department special event services in 2019:

- n+1 Coffee and Beer Bar, 507 Bruce Street

The alcohol license application for this applicant cannot be approved until the delinquent invoice has been paid in full. Motion by Reekie, seconded by Touchett, to recommend to the Common Council to approve alcohol license applications for the 2020-2021 licensing period, as presented by the City Clerk, contingent upon completion of building and fire inspections, and with the exception of n+1 Coffee and Beer Bar, 507 Bruce Street. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Reekie, seconded by Touchett, to recommend to the Common Council to approve the alcohol license for n+1 Coffee and Beer Bar, 507 Bruce Street, contingent upon completion of building and fire inspections, and payment in full of unpaid invoices to the City. Motion carried 3-0.

8. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Approval of cigarette and tobacco products retail license applications for the 2020-2021 licensing period. Eight applications for 2020-2021 cigarette and tobacco products retail licenses were received by the City Clerk. The list of applicants is included in the Committee packet. Motion by Reekie, seconded by Kohl, to recommend to the Common Council to approve cigarette and tobacco products retail license applications for the 2020-2021 licensing period as presented by the City Clerk. Motion carried 3-0.

9. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Speed limit on Locust Drive.

In February, 2020 Mayor Diaz and Common Council members received an email from some residents of Scenic Ridge and Cathedral Point regarding the speed limit on Locust Drive in those neighborhoods; particularly the intersections at Scenic Ridge Drive and Locust Drive, and Prairie Heights Drive and Locust Drive. They requested that the speed limit be lowered from 35 mph to 25 mph along this stretch of Locust Drive, as they believe drivers are exceeding the 35 mph speed limit, causing a safety issue. In response, Staff conducted a traffic study using a speed trailer on Locust Drive south of Highway 18/151 in May, 2020. Staff will share the study with the Committee and provide a recommendation.

Chief Coughlin explained the data does not support a change in the speed limit in this area. Traffic studies were conducted from May 8th – May 12th. One was done with the display on, and another with the display off. The timing of the studies may not be ideal because of the pandemic. During this time frame, with the display on, 4,600 vehicles were monitored. Of those, 85% were traveling below 32 mph. Eight were traveling at speeds over 55 mph. These results are well within the range of tolerance. 5,200 vehicles were monitored with the display off. Of those, speed went down by one mile per hour, and only one drove over 55 mph. These numbers do not support a reduction in the speed limit, but that is the committee's decision to make. In addition, the stretch of Locust south of Main Street and as far south of the bridge is more commercial, and a wider road. That section supports a 35 mph speed limit. In the residential area where the complaint was received, the road is narrower, and there is more pedestrian traffic. It can be difficult to cross from east to west.

Nicole Osten joined the meeting. She agrees the timing of the study may be a factor, as she is seeing fewer cars. The neighborhood would like to see the limit lowered. A rapid

rectangular flashing beacon may be a good solution, as well. She asked what the speed limit is on Cross Country Road.

Coughlin replied Cross Country is the only 30 mph exception in the City. That was arrived at years ago. There have been no increased accident rates or safety issues because of the speed limit there. All other residential areas are 25 mph. Locust had always been seen as an extension of other roads; it is wider, and is in more of a commercial or industrial area. With the development of Scenic Ridge and Cathedral Point, reducing the speed limit is becoming more justified. If the Committee is considering reducing the speed limit, it should be reduced for the length of Locust from S. Main Street, south to the City limits to keep it consistent.

Motion by Reekie, seconded by Kohl, to table this item until more information is available or another speed study can be done. Motion 3-0

10. Adjournment: Motion by Reekie, seconded by Kohl, to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Ellen Clark, City Clerk