

COMMUNITY PROTECTION & SERVICES COMMITTEE

May 5, 2022

A meeting of the Community Protection & Services Committee was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairperson Williams in the Council Chambers, City Hall. **Roll Call:** Members Ald. Williams, Ald. Wiederanders and Ald. Reeths were present. Also present from City Departments were City Mr. VanLieshout, Chief Henry, Ms. Reinhardt, Assistant Chief Montevideo, Mr. Olejniczak and Ald. Gustafson.

Moved by Ald. Wiederanders, seconded by Ald. Reeths to adopt the following amended agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2022
4. Public Comment on Agenda Items
5. Public Hearing: Request from Andrew Werblow to operate taxicab in the City of Sturgeon Bay, DBA Door County Courier, LLC
6. Consideration of: Request from Andrew Werblow to operate taxicab in the City of Sturgeon Bay, DBA Door County Courier, LLC
7. Consideration of: Liquor Licenses
8. Consideration of: **Section 9 Chapter 6** – Outdoor Wood-Fired Furnaces
9. Consideration of: Technology Upgrades for the Community Room
10. Discussion of: Neglected or Abandoned City Property
11. Adjourn

All Ayes. Carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Moved by Ald. Reeths, seconded by Ald. Wiederanders to approve the April 7, 2022 minutes. All Ayes. Carried.

Public Hearing

A public hearing regarding the request from Andrew Werblow to operate a taxicab in the City of Sturgeon Bay, DBA Door County Courier, LLC was open at 4:32p.m. There was no testimony. The public hearing was closed at 4:33p.m.

Operate a Taxicab in the City of Sturgeon Bay

Moved by Ald. Wiederanders, seconded by Ald. Reeths to recommend the Common Council approve the request from Andrew Werblow, Door County Delivers, to operate a taxicab in the City of Sturgeon Bay DBA Door County Courier. All Ayes. Carried.

Liquor Licenses

Currently the city has one available license. It is anticipated another license will become available by July. There is not set process as how to issue available licenses. At this time there are two applications for the one existing license.

In 2017 the committee discussed forming a process to allocate available licenses to those who apply. Nothing came out of the discussion at that time, and the one available license has not been issued since as no one has applied. Mr. Williams would like to revisit this discussion, and smooth out a process for distributing available licenses.

Per the City Clerk, there is a set number of Class B liquor/beer licenses owned by the city in which they lease to businesses from July 1 to June 30 of each year. That business is responsible for reapplying each year to obtain the license. A business cannot sell the license to any other entity as it belongs to the City.

It was decided to table this item until more discussion and information can be obtained. Items to be considered/suggested include:

- Date stamping applications; first to apply gets license.
- Develop and ordinance outlining how a license is distributed.
- Using a lottery system to choose who receives available licenses.
- Weighted process based off certain criteria.

This item will be placed back on the next agenda for further consideration.

Outdoor Wood-Fired Furnaces

Currently this is not an issue per Assistant Chief Montevideo, but wanted to discuss options in case it would become something more. The County does have an ordinance pertaining to wood-fired furnaces which could be mirrored by the City.

Wood-fired furnaces are specific to heating a home; they are not a kiln, stone oven or any other kind of fire place.

Hazard potentials that come with having a wood-fire furnace include:

- Produces large amounts of smoke; may disturb neighbors.
- Difficult installation; will probably need a permit application to verify safety.
- Large piles of firewood stored on property to use in the furnace.
- Develops rust and becomes an eyesore.

Consensus was these were not items geared for city/residential areas; these are geared more for county lots with more available space and acreage. Discussion to outlaw wood-fire furnaces in the City would be considered and this item should be placed back on the next agenda for further consideration.

Technology Upgrades for Community Room

No discussion. A process has been put in place.

Neglected or Abandoned Property

Discussion was opened up because of a number of City properties that need attention, and be cleaned up. It was asked if there was process in place to assist before such nuisance properties get out of hand? Ald. Williams questioned if a city ordinance needs to be reviewed and tightened up, or if involving a state law would be used to control the issue.

Chief Henry stated it depends on the level of the violation that decides which steps are taken. A low level violation, such as outdoor storage or property maintenance issue, can typically be dealt with by contacting the property owner and giving them an amount of time to fix the issue. A warning notice could be used to do this. If after the time allotted does not correct the issue, a citation might be rendered. It is set up on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. VanLieshout went through the process of how the City begins to handle neglected or abandoned property complaints. Any person can file or act on their own; they typically call the City to make a complaint. The complaint will then go to the appropriate department. The department will then determine the course of action to be taken, which may include: a letter or notice, warning, or

citation/fine depending. This usually resolves the issue. If the issue is not resolved additional enforcement might include more citations or even a court trial. If it goes to a court trial the City Attorney gets involved and costs start to accrue. Through the courts an action from a judge is received. This action may include the City going into the property and cleaning it up, charging the property owner on their tax roll. This process could take 2-3 years to complete, at a hefty cost to the City.

Getting to these properties before they get to a point a complaint is garnered is the question. Mr. Olejniczak stated coordination is the greatest need. He stated having someone in charge of property maintenance for the City would be ideal; as each department has its own process in handling complaints. Mr. VanLieshout that person would be like a code enforcement officer, which the City does not have.

Ald. Williams wanted to get the discussion started. Since a process is currently being considered, it was decided to table the item for now and possibly bring it back at a later date.

Moved by Ald. Wiederanders seconded by Ald. Reeths, to adjourn the meeting of the Community Protection Services Committee. All ayes. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Spude-Olson
Police Department Office Manager