

CITY OF VERONA
MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 23, 2023

1. Call to order: Reekie called the meeting to order at 5: 30 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Heather Reekie, Phil Hoechst, and Evan Touchett were present. Also present: City Clerk Holly Licht, Police Chief Dave Dresser, City Administrator Adam Sayre, and City Attorney Bryan Kleinmaier.
3. Public Comments: None
4. Approval of Minutes from the December 19, 2022 Public Safety and Welfare Committee meeting

Motion by Touchett, seconded by Reekie to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2022 Public Safety and Welfare Committee meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Re: A Special Event Permit application from Bill Martin for the SBR Endurance Performance Winter Wonderland Triathlon Run on Sunday, February 12, 2023 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Only the running portion of the triathlon will take place on City property. The swim portion will be at the natatorium and the cycling will take place at SBR. Runners will be using the trail, weather dependent. There is a backup route if the trail is snowy/icy. along the same route. Heats of 12 runners will run throughout the day. Police traffic control is not necessary for the event.

Motion by Reekie, seconded by Hoechst to approve a Special Event Permit application from Bill Martin for the SBR Endurance Performance Winter Wonderland Triathlon Run on Sunday, February 12, 2023 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

6. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Temporary Class “B” Fermented Malt Beverage and “Class B” Wine license applications from the Verona Area Community Theater, 103 Lincoln Street, for February 9-11, 16-18, and 20-23, 2023; and May 11-13 and 19-21, 2023 – Dee Baldock, Agent

The Verona Area Community Theater (VACT) is requesting 2 temporary license to serve beer and wine at their performances of Children’s Hour and Singin’ in the Rain Sr. Licensed bartenders will be serving alcohol. Staff recommends approval of the licenses.

Motion by Reekie, seconded by Hoechst to approve a Temporary Class “B” Fermented Malt Beverage and “Class B” Wine license applications from the Verona Area Community Theater, 103 Lincoln Street, for February 9-11, 16-18, and 20-23, 2023; and May 11-13 and 19-21, 2023 – Dee Baldock, Agent. Motion carried 3-0.

7. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Ordinance No. 23-1017 amending Title 11, Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances relating to possession and use of marijuana

Chief Dresser stated that he was concerned about OWIs and youth possession. His preference would be to not lower the fines for possession of marijuana. Reekie stated that she doesn't want to make it look like the City condones marijuana use for kids. Hoechst stated that he didn't think Verona needed to be at the forefront of reducing marijuana charge fees.

Hoechst asked how frequently the City issues citations for marijuana possession. Chief Dresser stated that they had issued 6 so far in January. He added that possession is usually a secondary offense. Typically, they pull someone over for speeding or other violations and discover marijuana.

Touchett suggested an escalating fee schedule for each additional offense. Hoechst stated he did not support the escalating fees and wants to keep the citation amount as is.

Hoechst asked how long it take for an officer to issue a possession citation. Chief Dresser stated that it typically takes 15 minutes on scene and a half hour to complete the administrative paperwork and package as evidence.

Motion by Reekie, seconded by Touchett to recommend that council approve the ordinance with an amendment that the citation fees double per each subsequent offense. Motion carried 2-1 with Hoechst voting no.

8. Adjournment: Motion by Touchett, seconded by Hoechst to adjourn at 6:17 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Licht, City Clerk