

CITY OF LAKE GENEVA FINANCE, LICENSING, AND REGULATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023 - 4:30 PM

LAKE GENEVA CITY HALL; COUNCIL CHAMBERS (MAIN LEVEL)

Members: Committee Members: Chairperson Ken Howell, Alderpersons: Joan Yunker, Mary Jo Fesenmaier, Cindy Yager, and Tim Dunn

Call to Order by Chairperson Howell

Alderperson Dunn called the meeting to order, in absence of Chairperson Howell, at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Dunn, Fesenmaier, Yager, and Yunker

Absent: Howell (excused)

Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes, limited to items on this agenda

Sherri Ames; 603 Center St; Spoke in favor of the Dennison Choir use of the Riviera Ballroom for their concert. Spoke in favor of selecting a short-term rental software vendor.

Charlene Klein; 817 Wisconsin St; Spoke in regards to the short-term rental software and warned of the misinformation being stated about the number of rentals in the City.

Approval of the October 3, 2023 Finance, Licensing, and Regulation Committee minutes as prepared and distributed

Motion by Yunker to approve, second by Yager. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Licenses & Permits

Discussion/Recommendation regarding a Temporary Class "B"/ "Class B" Retailer's License filed by Never Say Never Playland for the event of Downtown Lake Geneva Fall Wine Walk to take place on November 5, 2023, located at various downtown businesses

Motion by Yunker to approve, second by Yager. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion/Recommendation regarding Temporary Operator License Applications for the November 5, 2023 Fall Wine Walk filed by: Elizabeth Berhinig, William Briggs, Angela Carlson, Elizabeth Huml, Kimberly Steiner, Emily Syring, and Denise Zajac-Podhajsky

Motion by Yunker to approve, second by Yager. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion/Recommendation regarding Lake Geneva Public Library request to use the Riviera Ballroom on Monday, November 13, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a collaborative Veteran's Day program with the Central Denison Dynamic Dolphin youth choir

Motion by Yunker to approve, second by Yager. Fesenmaier questioned if a form for staff to complete could be investigated to use outside of the Riviera contract. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion/Recommendation regarding replacing defective exterior lighting at the Riviera at a cost of \$24,000

Motion by Yunker to approve not to exceed \$24,000, second by Fesenmaier. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion/Recommendation regarding Short Term Rental Software vendors

Yager stated that it is important to review these proposals and to possibly partner with one for enforcement. She added that staff needs to be able to monitor this more closely, due to the complaints that have been received.

Fesenmaier stated that the public has made it clear that there have been code violations concerning short-term rentals. She added that these companies would be available 24/7 to deal with any violations. She added that the presence of short-term rentals and the issues that have come up have created a sense of anxiety for citizens.

Yunker stated that these vendors are not on site to physically monitor the issues and doesn't understand how having

an off-site company will help. Yunker added that she doesn't feel comfortable spending \$30,000 on a vendor when we could pay a part-time person to actually in town.

Yager expressed concerns with having neighbors call in or monitor the properties as part of a neighborhood watch. Fesenmaier added that this would be in addition to staff's involvement, not meant to replace it.

Motion by Fesenmaier to contract with Avenu for Option #1 \$26, 840, second by Yager. Motion carried on a roll call vote 3-1, with Yunker voting no.

Discussion/Review of the Preliminary 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets

Finance Director Pisarcik addressed the committee concerning the 2024 preliminary operating and capital budgets. She noted that she was very appreciative of the alders that came to the two by two meetings and a summary of those meetings is in the packet for public review. She added that she had worked with all of the departments and outside entities to create this budget. All line items are within the preliminary budget, in the packet.

City Administrator Nord stated that there is a question within the budget regarding the Three Sisters Statue. He added that a decision will need to be made concerning its restoration or replacement.

The approximate cost of this would be \$250,000 and is currently not in the 2024 capital budget.

Finance Director Pisarcik then gave a high-level overview of the changes within the 2024 budget. Yager questioned if money could be put on a staggered placeholder for the Three Sisters Statue. Pisarcik stated that they could, but that a full placeholder could be placed in the next round of borrowing. Yager asked that staff review the action of the Historic Preservation Commission concerning the statute.

Fesenmaier stated that she would like to see the Park Wages increase to include additional staff to support the Parks Superintendent, which she would like to see as a Director. She stated that she would like to see the Parks Department as she had intended.

Fesenmaier questioned if Tourism Commission money could be used towards the interest payments Hillmoor as it was on the Riveria. Pisarcik stated that she wasn't sure how that would work, but it could be explored in the future. Fesenmaier stated that she would like to see the code enforcement line item, to tailor to the short-term rental enforcement.

Yager questioned what the Hillmoor wages were for. Pisarcik added that the Department of Public Works does mow out there currently, and that having that separate line item helps to track how much money is being spent out there.

Motion by Yunker to suspend the rules to allow Building & Zoning Administrator Fred Walling to address the committee, second by Yager. Motion carried 4-0.

Building & Zoning Administrator Walling explained the timeline of how the short-term rental permit fee was lowered over time and stated that it could be changed based on the additional software/staff. Walling stated that he would be hesitant to increase the cost of the permit fee to pay for that software as it might create pricing inconsistencies.

No action taken.

Presentation of Accounts

Pre-paid Checks: \$60,194.38

Motion by Yunker to approve, second by Yager. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Regular Checks: \$493,567.61

Motion by Yunker to approve, second by Yager. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment

Motion by Yunker to adjourn, second by Yager. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.