

**MINUTES
THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
ALD. STEVE WEBER, CHAIR
MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Weber called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

2. Roll Call

Present: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni,
Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner

Absent: None

3. Administrative – None

- a. Video Gaming Statistics, May 2023, Information Only – no comments

4. Omnibus Vote

Items with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine matters and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a council member/citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in normal sequence on the agenda.

Motion by Ald. Lencioni, second by Ald. Wirball to approve the Omnibus items.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

5. Police Department

- a. **Recommendation to approve a Proposal for an E1 Liquor License Application for Alter Brewing & Kitchen as part of the Chicagoland Tour De Cure taking place in Pottawatomie Park on August 12, 2023.**

Chief Keegan shared that this item was presented earlier today to the Liquor Control Commission and advanced with a 4-0 vote. Alter Brewing will provide one free beer to each race participant. There are estimated to be 200-300 cyclists participating in the race, and the route is being determined. This event benefits the American Diabetes Association. The Park District is working with the event organizer as well, and the alcohol was approved by the Park Board.

Motion by Ald. Lencioni, second by Ald. Wirball to recommend approval of an E1 Liquor License Application for Alter Brewing & Kitchen as part of the Chicagoland Tour De Cure taking place in Pottawatomie Park on August 12, 2023.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

b. **Recommendation to Approve a Proposal for a New Class E-1 Temporary Liquor License and Road Closure for St. Patrick's Church for September 9, 2023.**

Chief Keegan shared that this event is sponsored by Pollyanna Brewery. Cedar Street is requested to be closed. Alcohol will be consumed only in the tent. Food trucks will be available.

Motion by Ald. Pietryla, second by Ald. Lencioni to recommend approval of a New Class E-1 Temporary Liquor License and Road Closure for St. Patrick's Church for September 9, 2023.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

c. **Recommendation to approve a Resolution to Execute a School Resource Officer Agreement with Community Unit School District 303 for School Years 2023-2026.**

Chief Keegan explained that this 3-year contract provides school resource officers for both high school and both middle schools. One officer is assigned to each school, and they also help each other and pool resources as necessary. Officers are assigned to other duties when school is not in session. 70% of officer salaries are supported by the school district. This practice has been in place for many years and the contract is similar to previous contracts. Body cameras are a new addition and would only be used in a law enforcement situation and footage is subject to FOIA policies. There is a confidentiality agreement between the school and the police department for student information.

Motion by Ald. Wirball, second by Ald. Lencioni to recommend approval of a **Resolution** to Execute a School Resource Officer Agreement with Community Unit School District 303 for School Years 2023-2026.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

6. Community Development Department

a. Presentation from Smithfield Foods, 410 Kirk Road, St. Charles, Information Only.

Derek Conley introduced Ashton Williams, Plant Manager of Smithfield Foods. Ms. Williams provided background on the company which has had a St. Charles location since 1973 and employs approximately 500 people.

Whit Divibiss, engineer at Smithfield Foods explained that as the plant operation has grown, it has taxed the wastewater system. Multiple actions have been taken to reduce the food odors coming from their building. Unfortunately, it is not a quick result to obtain, and trial and error is involved. Many improvements have been made over the last six to eight weeks and additional steps will be taken. Efforts are being made, including capital investment, to be the best neighbors possible.

Wards 1 and 2 alderpersons commented about the feedback they are receiving from residents about the odors. Specific action steps and frequent/monthly communication were requested. It was suggested that a feedback mechanism be created so residents may provide feedback directly to Smithfield that could be used in analysis of the factors that cause the smell.

City Council members were invited to visit the plant to see and learn more about the processes in place.

b. 2024 First Street Outdoor Dining Plan, Discussion Only.

Derek Conley acknowledged that the outdoor dining plan has changed annually over the last few years because of Covid-19 and the construction on 1st Street. Staff would like to create a long-term solution going forward. A formal plan will be presented to this committee in early Fall 2023, depending on the construction schedule.

Accessibility in the plaza, space for residents who are not dining, City-sponsored events, aesthetic improvements, and permit fees have all be raised as issues to be addressed.

The ADA access is currently in the Gia Mia dining area and not ideal. Later this week Public Works will install a temporary ramp to make the west plaza more accessible. A more permanent solution for ADA access needs to be developed.

Winter and Summer concepts were discussed for the plaza-adjacent restaurants, and no formal proposal is being made at this time.

Representatives of the restaurants were invited to comment. Ken Henricks of Alter Brewing spoke about the energy and potential of the new plaza. He stated preferences

for outdoor space to be used by his company. If a long-term plan is approved, outdoor furniture would be upgraded.

Dino Sisto of La Za Za Trattoria prefers space on the south side of his building. Car and truck noise on Main Street detracts from an outdoor dining experience. An investment in matching outdoor furniture would be made to support a more consistent plaza layout. This restaurant may potentially add a second-floor space with an outdoor bar. It would be helpful to move the flagpoles.

Bob Rasmussen spoke on behalf of La Mesa. He wants the fountains to remain. He also requests that La Mesa be permitted to have tables on the north side of their building as well as along the east side, along 1st Street. Doors would be added to offer ADA access on 1st Street. Council is requested to make decisions about outdoor dining for 2024 by November 2023 to allow the business owners to make investments to improve the experience for their customers.

Jim Bolender from Gia Mia expressed satisfaction with the proposed layouts.

Maurice McNally is not available to attend and comment.

Multiple restaurants' sales revenues are reportedly reduced by 25% this year.

Committee members commented, including the following:

- Some mentioned that they would like to keep the fountains and others said they would like to understand what changes would be recommended for the fountains along with explanations.
- Maintain a high percentage of public space that is not solely dedicated to dining.
- Ensure pedestrian pathways are accessible and identifiable.
- Request for uniformity of fencing between all restaurants. Create standards or continuity to create a contiguous look and feel for the plaza. The uniform features, including seating, umbrellas, and lighting, could also be employed in other areas of the City as those outdoor dining areas are further developed. This would create a cohesive visual presentation for St. Charles.
- The plazas offer a wonderful public space and it's exciting to see these improvements.
- Consider increasing the permit fees for outdoor dining.
- Several preferences were stated for Layout #1.

7. Finance Department

*a. Budget Revisions for April 2023.

Motion by Ald. Lencioni, second by Ald. Wirball to recommend approval of Budget Revisions for April 2023.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

*b. Budget Revisions for June 2023.

Motion by Ald. Lencioni, second by Ald. Wirball to recommend approval of Budget Revisions for June 2023.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

8. **Public Comment** - None

9. **Additional Items from Mayor, Council or Staff** - None

Ald. Lencioni asked whether communities have regulations regarding odors. Heather McGuire responded that St. Charles does already have an ordinance that regulates smells.

10. **Executive Session**

Motion by Ald. Wirball, second by Ald. Pietryla to enter executive session at 8:27 pm for discussion of Pending, Probable or Imminent Litigation – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

11. The regular session was reconvened at 8:37 pm.

12. **Adjournment**

Motion by Ald. Foulkes, second by Ald. Muenz to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm.

Voice Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Bancroft, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: Ald. Lencioni. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

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