

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chairman Stellato at 7:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Chairman Stellato, Ald. Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Turner, Bancroft, Krieger, Gaugel, Bessner, Lewis

Absent:

3. Omnibus Vote – None

4. Police Department

a. Recommendation for approval of the use of City Plazas/property and amplification license for the STC Live.

Chief Keegan: This is the fifth annual event for STC Live that will be taking place Memorial weekend through September 16, 2017 on Wednesday and Friday evenings. There are no substantial changes from previous years. Any questions?

Motion by Ald. Turner, second by Bancroft to recommend approval of the use of City Plazas/property and amplification license for the STC Live.

Voice Vote: Ayes: Unanimous; Nays: None. Chrmn. Stellato did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

b. Recommendation for approval of street and parking lot closures and amplification license for the Fine Arts Show May 27 & 28, 2017.

Chief Keegan: Similar to the previous item, this item is an annual event and identified in your packet for date, time, and street closures. Any questions?

Motion by Ald. Bancroft, second by Bessner to recommend approval of street and parking lot closures and amplification license for the Fine Arts Show May 27 & 28, 2017.

Voice Vote: Ayes: Unanimous; Nays: None. Chrmn. Stellato did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

c. Recommendation to approve a proposal for a new Class E-4 temporary liquor license for a special event, “Unwind Wednesdays” to be held on the 1st Street Plaza.

Chief Keegan: This is a recommendation to approve at proposal for a new Class E-4 temporary liquor license for a special event, “Unwind Wednesdays” to be held on the 1st Street Plaza. This is the second annual event and was advanced from the Liquor Commission earlier this evening with a unanimous vote. Shay Clark is here from McNally’s. This is going to take place on Wednesdays. Last year there were four approved dates that the Council approved. One was canceled due to weather and the other three events coincided with STC Live and was very successful. This year Puebla, Pizzeria Neo, and McNally’s are going to join forces. Last year ZaZa’s contributed but didn’t really participate and they would like to do the same thing this year with the expanded dates.

Ald. Krieger: I’ve had calls from a couple of local establishments and they’re concern that this activity is taking business away from them and they would rather see it only once or twice a month as last year. They feel these businesses are using the city property and they’re trying to maintain their businesses and they’re paying for their buildings; and feel this is rather slanted in favor of one or two businesses and the rest of the businesses could be hurting downtown.

Ald. Silkaitis: We approved four last year and now we’re going to 16 – that’s a big increase. I would like to lower the amount of days. For three months it’s every week and I think that’s too much.

Motion by Ald. Krieger, second by Silkaitis to approve two per month, the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

Ald. Turner: I think it’s a good compromise so we can see how this works out and maybe next year we keep increasing it. Every week is a little too much.

Shay Clark, live in West Dundee and run McNally’s Irish Pub and am here with my colleague Kim. Kim Lawson, I live in St. Charles and operate Puebla and oversee Pizzeria Neo.

Shay: I speak to all of my neighbors very regularly about what we do and I’ve yet to come across anybody that has said that what we did last year affected their business.

Ald. Krieger: These businesses are located beyond the plaza.

Shay: In that case I don’t see how it would of affected them negatively. Last year was a trial and it worked very well. Weather will always eliminate some of the Wednesdays and we’re basically following the STC Live with the Downtown St. Charles Partnership. What we did experience is that when it was over, many people would say I didn’t know it was last week.

Kim: I agree because I’m at those two places all the time, I’m just trying to give my customers

what they are asking for. When we did have bands outside, we were constantly dragging them back in and they were getting upset with us. They want to sit outside and listen to the music for a couple of hours.

Ald. Payleitner: Mr. Clark, could you please specify for us as you did at the Liquor Commission your plan for the menus on the tables. You're really not competing with dinners per se?

Shay: Last year we were out there for perhaps a total of 10 hours and we learned from that experience. This year we're thinking about providing a trifold tent on the public tables letting people know what they could order from, small plate items. We want to make it more like a European Piazza; about food, family, pets etc. The photos are all on the DSCP website showing what those events were like.

Ald. Payleitner: Yes like enhancing the community and enhancing the music experience. Without the STC Live's partnership it probably wouldn't have worked at all.

Kim: And what our customers were asking us for, it was hard to tell them they couldn't go outside and they stand by the glass and watch or finish their meal and then go outside.

Shay: Also we did not ask for an extension of hours or extend it to Friday night because of the live music. We just wanted to keep it on the Wednesdays.

Ald. Lemke: Just for continuity if you decide on a period of time, do it every week for continuity sake but I would defer to the Mayor.

Mayor Rogina: I like your comment about continuity because if you do it every other week, some people will come downtown and ask why is it not here? With all due respect to the other comments, I would speak against the motion simply on the following facts: 1) 1st Street is developing and it continues to develop and we are looking to bring more people downtown and 2) we have a beautiful plaza. Many people have told me to close down 1st Street from traffic and make it a Piazza like in Italy. Well we're not going to do that and we have a parking deck there. To me the experience from last summer, I got emails asking why isn't this every week? These are customers like Kim referred to earlier. I'm speaking against the motion but I certainly accept compromise obviously. With the police recommendations and with the fact there has been control in this situation; we built a plaza for a reason as a gathering place; so think about that.

Ald. Lewis: We did define dusk at the Liquor Commission and it will be like last year that dusk will be 8:30 p.m. and then they have to go inside to get their liquor beverages. They can't be served outside and then by 9:00 p.m. the tables are all cleared. Will you still serve food after 9:00 p.m.?

Kim: Everything will go back to normal and will be cleaned up. You won't even know we were there.

Ald. Lewis: You may have misunderstood why Ald. Krieger was saying that it wasn't other businesses but other liked businesses, those with liquor licenses who were feeling their businesses was suffering.

Shay: That's not much of a surprise. Our businesses happen to be on this lovely plaza and we got music.

Ald. Lewis: I voted for this and I'm still in favor for it but it maybe it's something we can keep in the back of our minds, if it does become something of an issue that we might have to rethink what we do for those other established restaurants.

Shay: I do think that adverse weather is going to knock some dates off like last year.

Jenna Sawicki, Director, Downtown St. Charles Partnership, 2 East Main Street, St. Charles: I just wanted to add that the continuity will make this successful. After doing many events downtown, keeping the base the same is vital for an event to be successful and to give it an opportunity to succeed.

Ald. Gaugel: I would agree with that and I understand the spirit of the motion and if it's the total number of days that we're taking a large leap from last year up to 16, maybe there is something else we could work out. Maybe shorten the dates of the total timeframe, but I think the continuity is pretty essential to making this a success. I wouldn't be in favor of the motion but would be in favor of another compromise somewhere down the road and would engage our applicants in what would work best for them is 16 is a number that doesn't work for us.

Ald. Bancroft: I agree with Steve. Rather than us arbitrarily cutting or doing something, I would put it back to you and say is there any room in the 16 that can be done?

Kim: What if we cut out September, even though the weather will still be beautiful and the music is there; what if we just did June, July, and August when the kids are out of school so they can bring their families? That would be cutting it back by four.

Chrmn. Stellato: For a matter of record we do have a motion on the floor to vote on first and then we can come back and make an amendment.

Ald. Krieger: May I withdraw the motion?

Chrmn. Stellato: Absolutely if the second agrees.

Ald. Silkaitis: Yes.

Ald. Payleitner: I do want to commend Mr. Clark and party that they wanted to do this last year but they listen to us and said okay, we'll try it small and see how it works and so they did do that abiding from our recommendation last.

Motion by Ald. Silkaitis, second by Lemke to approve a recommendation for a Class E-4 temporary liquor license for a special event, “Unwind Wednesdays” to be held on the 1st Street Plaza to 12 dates excluding the month of September from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: Payleitner, Lemke, Turner, Bancroft, Gaugel, Bessner, Lewis, Silkaitis; Nays: Krieger. Chrmn. Stellato did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

d. Recommendation to approve a proposal for a new Class E-1 Temporary Liquor License for a Special Event, “Hops for Hope 5K,” to be held at Mt. Saint Mary Park – May 20, 2017.

Chief Keegan: This item is to recommend approval of a proposal for a new Class E-1 Temporary Liquor License for a Special Event, “Hops for Hope 5K,” to be held at Mt. St. Mary Park – May 20, 2017 and it advanced from the Liquor Control Commission earlier today with a negative 2-1 vote and there was one member absent. Mayor Rogina, Chairman of the Liquor Control Commission did support this but doesn’t vote and opines as he sees fit.

Kathryn Simmons is here. This particular special event is a non-for-profit that benefits Project Mobility. We’ve worked with in the past and Hal’s been in business for 42 years in St. Charles, The Bike Rack. They raise funds for bikes for folks who have mobility issues. This particular event stems around a 5K with a twist. They would like to use the pedestrian parkways of Mt. St. Mary Park, it proceeds through the park and crosses over Geneva Street (Rt. 31) into Geneva and the runners will come back. On the 5K itself there will be five stops where 3 ounces of draft beer will be served to participants that go through the 5K process. It’s a time sanctioned race so there will be some runners that will come out and attend but folks don’t have to partake in the craft beer consumption. So if you participate in the event you pay one entrance fee and just run or a differential entrance fee to go through the 5K process and have a couple of samplings of craft beer, and afterwards there will be a small event where the participants would be served two more craft beer servings along with an award event and a band. They are not only asking for permission of the alcohol license but also use of amplification. Ms. Simmons is here to answer any question this committee may have.

Kathryn Simmons, 6N183 Old Homestead Road: I am an experienced event planner and been doing events for over 5 years and have over 15 events under my belt that have been very successful. In 2015 I planned a 5K for over 500 people for an animal shelter in Huntley.

Ald. Krieger: I don’t see any BASSET training listed?

Kathryn: The House Pub in St. Charles is donating five of their employees that are BASSET trained for our event and we also have three employees who are BASSET trained.

Ald. Lewis: This was discussed quite a bit at the Liquor Commission and it was moved forward with a motion to deny and move up here to this committee. The issue I have was not that it’s a wonderful charity they are trying to raise money for, but the park is going to be used from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with setup at 9:00, registration at 10:00, then the race starts at noon and will

run an hour. At that point they are going to have five different stops of these 3-ounce beer samplings one of which will be on Rt. 31. To me this is a gateway of our community and we're going to have a beer stop there with a hundred runners. It doesn't seem like a safe place to have people congregate and consume beverages; and the other issue I have is that anyone can who walks along the bike path and are 21 years of age and can pay at that time for two drink tickets – they are not running. Is there a price on that?

Kathryn: Drink tickets are not purchased, it comes with their registration.

Ald. Lewis: But you said spouses and spectators can go into the tent and have some beer; so what would that price be?

Kathryn: Spectators would be \$20 and get their two tickets and enjoy the music.

Ald. Lewis: Two pints for \$20 – correct. And anybody walking along in the park that day can go in and do that. This isn't the place for it, my opinion, there was quite a bit of conversation, but that is where I'm at.

Kathryn: For the people that are coming the day of, we can say that it's not open to just anyone for the awards ceremony. It's only people who are registered at the beginning – this could be a compromise possibly.

Ald. Lewis: Maybe for some others, but not for me.

Ald. Payleitner: I wanted to add what else our conversation included at the Liquor Commission; it wasn't speaking to your lack of experience as an event planner, it was the fact that you've never participated in this kind of an event or supervised one. Whenever there's a liquor component that could be asking for trouble and it was brought up about the Rotary event at Lincoln Park, but they brought in an experienced event planner. That gentleman has done that specific kind of event a few times before. Great charity, great cause; I would just like to see a more family friendly event as your fundraiser. You say you're running front of the Brownstones; have you talked to them at all, have they weighed in?

Kathryn: Not yet because of the whole process of not knowing if we are approved or not.

Ald. Payleitner: Sometimes events come and they already talked to the neighbors so they haven't weighed in. I also understand that Geneva and the St. Charles Park District is waiting to see how we weigh in; and I sometimes would like to step back and see how do they weigh in before we take the plunge? We sometimes like to give them a chance first.

Ald. Lewis: I think Geneva is just a water stop in Wheeler Park and the beer is going to be in our park and it's Penrose Brewery from Geneva that's doing this?

Kathryn: We have a few different breweries for this event.

Chief Keegan: We work with the site and event planners and would not allow consumption on the pathway. The runners would consume at each stop in a fenced in area and be credential. The awards banquet itself would be in a secure area as well. We would not allow folks to walk around on any of the pathways within the park along the river consuming alcohol.

Ald. Lewis: Is there food involved?

Kathryn: Yes. The whole goal of this is to bring the community into the downtown and have them bring awareness to our non-profit and just have a fun day.

Ald. Payleitner: Without families, that's the concern I have that during the Spring its just an adults only event in the park.

Kathryn: Project Mobility does other events in the parks, this would be the only event.

Ald. Payleitner: With incorporating our park, I would like to see it be more family friendly.

Mayor Rogina: On the family friendly issue, a good majority voted on a non-family friendly event for the Rotary's Craft Beer Festival. To me in using the park, and I agree that the Park District has to weigh in and are waiting to see whether the liquor license will be issued as oppose to they're going to give them the park and then have the liquor license go down. Ald. Payleitner is right that the Rotary does have professional supervision. But with respect to the family issue, to me you got two very similar events. There's a recommendation at the bottom of this item because it was vetted by our staff. I believe they will drive a successful event that will not involve public safety being compromised. As a marathon runner that is involved in these things, runners are very orderly people for the most part although there is no beer involved. I understand you being a little leery but wanted to opine my thoughts.

Ald. Lewis: I'm not opposed to having a race using the bike path and the park; my opposition is with the liquor license and more of the perception that it involves. Because you like to do something doesn't necessarily mean that's what we should be doing. How is this good for St. Charles? That's what we have to focus on.

Kathryn: There are so many 5Ks in the area and the reason why we wanted to add the craft beer aspect is that craft beers are so popular right now and we wanted to put a twist on this to draw more people into St. Charles. There are other areas like Arlington Heights, Indianapolis, there are quite a few that are so successful and brings in so many demographics.

Ald. Silkaitis: I don't see this being any different; we just approved 12 days for 1st Street and that's one of our gateways also coming into town and they are families down there and again it's going to be an adult supervise area. You may want to stipulate that kids can't come in after the fact and if doesn't work out and there are issues, then it won't happen next year.

Motion by Ald. Bessner, second by Silkaitis to recommend approval of a proposal for a new Class E-1 Temporary Liquor License for a Special Event, “Hops for Hope 5K,” to be held at Mt. Saint Mary Park – May 20, 2017.

Roll Call: Ayes: Lemke, Turner, Bancroft, Gaugel, Bessner, Silkaitis; Nays: Payleitner, Krieger, Lewis. Chrmn. Stellato did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

6. Executive Session – None.

- Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)
- Pending Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4)
- Probable or Imminent Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4)
- Property Acquisition 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3)
- Collective Bargaining 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
- Review of Minutes of Executive Sessions 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(14)

7. Additional Items from Mayor, Council, Staff or Citizens.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ald. Gaugel, second by Ald. Silkaitis to adjourn meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Voice Vote: Ayes: Unanimous; Nays: None. Chair Stellato did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

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