

CITY OF VERONA
MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE COMMITTEE
May 24, 2021
Verona City Hall

1. Call to order: Heather Reekie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Heather Reekie, Evan Touchett, and Katie Kohl were present. Also present: Police Chief Bernie Coughlin and City Administrator Adam Sayre.
3. Approval of Minutes: Motion by Reekie, seconded by Touchett, to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2021 Public Safety and Welfare Committee meeting. Motion carried 3-0.
4. Discussion and Possible Action Re: A Special Event Permit application from Annemarie Miller, from The Sows Ear, for Knit in Public Day on June 12, 2021.

The Sows Ear is hosting an event for Knit in Public Day. The Applicant is requesting use of the public parking lot located behind the Sows Ear. This space will be used like a patio. There may be some pop-up tents for shade, but guest will be asked to bring their own chairs. Guests will be able to order box lunches ahead of time and no alcohol will be served in this area.

Chief explained the user wants to use the southern half of the parking lot for the event between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Department of Public Works will drop off barricades to allow the northern portion for public parking. Police will post that the lot will be closed. No officers will need to be posted there. While there are two (2) other events in the City, those will not impact these events. There will be approximately 18 to 20 parking spaces available for public parking, which is about half the lot.

Motion by Reekie, seconded by Touchett, to approve a Special Event Permit application from Annemarie Miller, from The Sows Ear, for Knit in Public Day on June 12, 2021. Motion carried 3-0.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Special Event Permit application from Leann Butts from the 5th Quarter for special events to be held on July 10, 2021 and July 17, 2021.

The 5th Quarter is holding an event on July 10th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on July 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Similar to previous years, the applicant would utilize the parking lot located on the east side of the building. Staff has no concerns with the request as the 5th Quarter has operated similar events in the past without any issues.

Motion by Reekie, seconded by Touchett, to recommend to the Common Council to approve a Special Event Permit application from Leann Butts from the 5th Quarter for special events to be held on July 10, 2021 and July 17, 2021. Motion carried 3-0.

6. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Locust Drive Speed Limit.

In 2020 and 2021, the City has received complaints from a resident in the Scenic Ridge Subdivision regarding speeding on Locust Drive. The current speed limit on Locust Drive is 35 mph. As a result of the complaints, the City completed speed studies in May of 2020 and in April 2021. The results from the April 2021 study showed 85% of the vehicles were traveling at 38 mph or less; the 2020 study yielded similar results. Based on the results of the studies, Staff believes the 35 mph speed limit is appropriate.

Reekie believes the hope of the residents is to lower the speed limit to 25 mph similar to other residential streets in the City.

Nicole Osten shared that there are a lot of young families that would like the speed lowered as they don't feel safe to let their kids ride bikes around with cars driving so fast. Whalen Road and Nine Mound Road speed limits have been lowered recently.

Chief shared that the Committee can make a speed limit change since we own that whole road. The stretch north of Locust Drive to Main Street is mixed-use development with a wider street should be the same as south of the Locust Drive bridge. 30 mph could be a consideration, which is currently only on Cross Country due to lack of driveways.

Aaron Osten shared that the intersections on the road are blind with the hills.

Kohl, Mayor Diaz, and Reekie are all in favor of lowering the speed limit.

Chief will work on drafting up the ordinance changes north and south of the bridge on Locust Drive to 25 mph and will bring it back in an upcoming meeting.

7. Adjournment: Motion by Reekie, seconded by Kohl, to adjourn at 6:01 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Kayla Martin, Deputy City Clerk