

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 5, 2018

In Attendance:

Members Present: Ann Smith, Chairperson, Larry Chapman, Barry Mitchell and Mayor Janet Winkler

Others Present: Town Manager, Rebecca Bentley, Chief of Police, Andy Day, Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson and Debbie and Barry Cloer, Owners of "Just Roll With It" Restaurant

Call to Order:

Ann Smith called the Public Safety Committee Meeting to order. Ann stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss a request for a permit submitted on behalf of the Hudson Rotary Club for the new Pickin' in the Park Concerts scheduled for this summer.

Discussion:

Checking IDs and Security

Chief Day stated that he has some concerns about alcohol being available and the number of people that may be attending some of the Town's upcoming events. Chief Day stated that anytime there is going to be a crowd involved regardless of whether or not there is alcohol available, there needs to be security. Chief Day expressed concerns about using officers on duty to look after the events. He stated that he had talked to Jim Engelman about his concerns, and Jim had suggested that the Hudson Rotary Club could hire off duty officers to attend the events.

Ann asked if we need to have 2 officers whether or not alcohol is present.

Chief Day stated that if there is a crowd involved there probably needs to be 2 officers present for the event.

Chief Day stated that some of the questions surrounding the events are - Is alcohol going to be segregated from the crowd? and Is someone going to be checking IDs? Chief Day stated that according to Jim, the vendors would be checking IDs.

Debbie Cloer stated that she has checked IDs when their restaurant was involved with events before where alcohol was sold, and armbands were used. The armbands help the vendors keep up with who has purchased alcohol and how many drinks they have had. She explained that the armbands typically have something you cut each time they purchase alcohol, and at these types of events, people are limited to 5 drinks.

Ann asked about the coming in and going out of the designated areas.

Chief Day commented that if the alcohol is segregated, it would keep the children out of the alcohol area.

Barry Cloer suggested that if we have beer and wine sales, there needs to be a roped off area for the beer and wine separate from where children are. Example – No one allowed under a certain age beyond this point.

Chief Day stated that in his opinion, wherever the point of sale for the alcohol is, it needs to be roped off.

Larry asked if you have a small child with you that you are in charge of looking after, would you be allowed to take the child in the roped-off area.

Chief Day stated that there could probably be exceptions made to allow a child to accompany their parent or guardian inside the roped-off area if there is no one else to look after the child.

Event Permitting Process:

Rebecca commented that she was concerned about our event permits. She commented that in looking at permits for other towns, she found that some were very long, and ours is very short. She suggested that we may want to ask for more information and add additional requests to our permits.

Rebecca stated that one thing we do not have is liability requirements, which is something very important in keeping the Town protected. She added that there are insurance policies available that can relieve the Town of liability for these events.

Chief Day stated that according to Chief Brown in Lenoir, their event permits cover all types of events, and not just the events involving alcohol. Chief Brown added that Lenoir requires that a permit be completed for any type of outside event.

Janet asked if the liability insurance is for the Town or the entity.

Rebecca stated that it would cover both, but it would be applied for by the entity.

Barry Mitchell asked if the policies would cover one event or every event for the entity.

Rebecca stated that she is not sure what type or how many events could be covered under this type of insurance policy. Rebecca commented that the Town of Granite Falls allows only one organization to do this type of event, and that is the Granite Falls Rotary Club. Rebecca stated that she is not sure that we want to limit ours to just one organization.

Chief Day asked about parking for the food trucks.

Ann stated that Bill Warren was thinking that the food trucks could park in the Town Hall parking lot facing Windmill Park. She added that they are only planning to have 2 food trucks.

Rebecca asked if the events should be over by 9:00 pm.

Ann stated that from what she understood, the events will be held from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Rebecca mentioned that the field we usually use for parking for our events has new owners, and we need to make sure we contact them about using the field. The new owners are Gary and Donna Greer, owners of Donna's Café.

Chief Day commented that he wants the Town's events to be successful, and he wants to make sure everything works well with the addition of alcohol.

Larry asked about taping off the area where alcohol is being served.

Chief Day stated that he didn't know if that would be necessary, but he reminded everyone that we just need to make sure the alcohol stays where it needs to be.

Recommendation to Board of Commissioners:

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Barry Mitchell) to recommend that there be off duty officers at events held in Town, plus Rebecca and Chief Day work on an application/permit process for the events. Unanimously approved.

Janet suggested that the Committee also recommend that the entity holding the event be required to get liability insurance.

It was the consensus of the Committee to add a liability insurance requirement as a part of the application process.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Barry Mitchell) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk

