

PUBLIC HEARING, Minutes - June 2, 2015

PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Polyner (arrived at 5:06pm), D.Forsman and Mayor Novak (7)

ABSENT: None

Mayor Novak opened the Public Hearing at 5:00pm in the City Hall Council Chambers and read aloud the following purpose for the hearing.

Purpose: This Hearing will be held to discuss a proposed revision of the City's Noise Ordinance extending City wide, the general noise prohibition on July 4th to 11:30pm and the Saturday of the Annual Blueberry Arts Festival to 11:00pm. The proposed revision also includes an Amplification Permit allowing a landowner to request modification or extension of the hours stipulated in the Ordinance. This permit would be considered on a case by case basis and only issued after approval by the Council.

11 citizens were in attendance (from the sign-in sheet) and 4 citizens chose to speak.

Jeff Cierniak, Chapman St resident, musician and teacher, spoke for extending the hours for only a couple of nights a year which to him does not seem unreasonable. He pointed out that Grand Marais' Ordinance states no noise after 10:00pm on weekdays and Midnight on weekends. He stated that he understands the disruption to some residents due to the noise but it can also be an added attraction for the City.

Tom Stewart, Camp St resident, asked the Council what generated the idea to change the Ordinance and what will the Council use as a criteria to make the decision on whether to approve a particular amplification permit or not. Mayor Novak stated that the current Ordinance restricts the Council too much and the Bowling Alley was the first request for an extension of hours on the 4th of July. Council members Kess and Debeltz were in agreement that each Councilor will weigh the options for each request and will make a decision based on what's best for the Community at that time. Mr. Stewart stated the Council should look after the citizens and he feels they are opening the door for problems.

Joe Moubry, Chapman St resident, stated that he feels the Ordinance change gives the Council more flexibility in regulating the late night noise issue. This will offer citizens more to do within the City. According to Mr. Moubry, the Ordinance change will solve more problems than it will create.

Tim Brennan, Ely Bowling Alley owner, stated he is a fan of the outdoor music concept and believes it is good for community businesses. With the new Amplification permit, it will give the City more control over the situation. Council member Debeltz asked Mr. Brennan what prevents him from asking to extend hours on a given night to 1:30am. Mr. Brennan stated that he really does not want to stay open any later than 12:30am at this time.

Council member Kess reaffirmed that the Ordinance change locked in the July 4th and Saturday of Blueberry Festival at 11:30pm and 11:00pm respectively. All other days the time is 9:00pm. Those requesting hours beyond those stipulated must turn in an Amplification permit to the Clerk's office at least 30 days before the requested event.

Mayor Novak closed the hearing at 5:20pm.

Deputy Clerk, Claire Huisman