

Item 23-0613: Class "B" Beer License application for Core's Lounge

Common Council

Wed, Jul 19, 2023 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 26:56

That's it for business presented by the mayor. So, we'll move on now to public participation. At each meeting, the Council reserves 30 minutes for members of the public to express their views on items which appear on the agenda. And we have four people signed up to speak this evening. So, when I call your name, I'll ask that you please approach the microphone, state your name and address for the record. And we ask that you keep your comments concise and to the point and that you please take into consideration comments that have may been—been made by those who've spoken before you. As a reminder, there's a limit of five minutes for speaker on public participation. So, with that we'll get started.

Mayor Jake Woodford 27:35

The first person signed up to speak is signed up actually for an item that will appear under public hearing. This is Lisa, who's here to talk about the ThedaCare Heritage Woods item so we can take your comment during the public hearing on this item which will be coming up in the next section of the agenda. So next is Mike Lokensgard from Godfrey and Kahn. Okay. And Eric Schacht from Lawrence University. I think same So, thing. Okay. And then next is **[Amy R.]** You're talking about the Core's Lounge item. Okay. And so, if you'd like please approach the podium, state your name and address for the record.

Amy R.A. (Resident) 28:31

Good evening. I'm **[Amy R.A.]** My address is **[XXXXX]** right here in Appleton. And I'm here just to speak briefly on the topic of Core's Lounge and the new license that they have applied for. I'll keep it brief because we've had these discussions in the past. The residents in our neighborhood, and the city Council, city officials, our public health and safety professionals have met quite a few times already on this topic. We've had—and we've listened to discussions and debates and testimony and votes. The neighborhood and the city put up with a business, its owners and its patrons, who didn't appear to feel obliged to follow the rules and the laws that applied to them. The neighborhood and the city were placed in situation—several situations, many situations—by Core's Lounge that ran the gamut from unpleasant and uncooperative to unlawful and unsafe.

Amy R.A. (Resident) 29:38

It boils down to this: the neighborhood and the city followed the rules and proper procedure in contending with Core's Lounge, who did not. After a long road of citations, convictions, and demerit points, a conclusion was reached to revoke the liquor license that they held. And there should be noted that after the revocation there have been infractions as well. It's just real simple. Please don't issue them another liquor license. We would really ask you to deny it. And thank you so much for your attention and all the effort that you put up and put into this over the time that we've had these discussions and we've been contending with it. It's really, really appreciated. Thank you so much.

Mayor Jake Woodford 30:35

There are no other members of the public sign up to speak. The folks who are going to talk on items from the public hearing notwithstanding, is there anyone else who wishes to speak on an item on the agenda that didn't get to sign up? Okay, hearing none, I'll close public participation.

[Cut]

Mayor Jake Woodford 38:05

Alright, we'll move on then to the item from safety and licensing. This is item 23-0613. This is the Class B. Beer license Core's Lounge. A motion and a second to approve.

Mayor Jake Woodford 38:31

Any discussion? Alder Siebers.

Alderman William Siebers (District 1) 38:34

Your Honor, just for clarification. The motion is to deny that license, right?

Mayor Jake Woodford 38:40

Yes.

Alderman William Siebers (District 1) 38:41

So, a yes vote would deny that license?

Mayor Jake Woodford 38:45

Yes. An aye vote will uphold the denial from committee.

Alderman William Siebers (District 1) 38:48

Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 38:52

Alder Croatt.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 38:54

Thank you, Mayor. Just to clarify. Thank you, Alderman Siebers for recognizing that. It did come from committee on a unanimous vote to deny. Personally, I didn't see any reasons why we could, should, or would approve this license based on everything that has happened. So, I would recommend supporting the committee's recommendation. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 39:16

Alder Jones.

Alderman Vaya Jones (District 10) 39:18

Thank you, Chair. They're just kind of some very specific reasons as to not approve this. Per section 9-52-10 of the municipal code, specifically bars granting an alcohol license to any applicant that has been convicted of selling alcoholic beverages without the proper retail license within the last 18 months. So, our municipal code actually prevents the committee from approving the application even if they had wanted to do so.

Alderman Vaya Jones (District 10) 39:45

For number two, the habitual law offender. Wisconsin law states no license related to alcohol beverages may be issued to a habitual law offender where the circumstances of the habitual law offenses substantially relate to the circumstances to the particular license activity. Lieutenant Nagel, in the committee discussion, had advised that he thought every single one of these violations has that substantial relation to the service of alcohol.

Aldersperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 40:11

And lastly, on the application for this license, the applicant had lied or put misinformation. They had answered "No" to the question "Have you or a member of your organization ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or ordinance violation?" That has not been the case. So, I would support denying this license.

Mayor Jake Woodford 40:33

Any further discussion? Again, the recommendation from committee was to deny, and So, the motion was to approve so an aye vote will deny the license. Any questions? Hearing none Please cast your votes.

Mayor Jake Woodford 41:01

Alder Meltzer, I don't see a vote from you yet. Okay. Alder Meltzer votes aye. All right, motion passes 14 zero and the denial has been upheld.