

CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, April 9, 2002

PRESENT: Aids. Becker, Costello, Ecks, Heins, Herzog, Krol, Sullivan, Treis -8

ALSO

PRESENT: N. Welch, Community Development Dir.; Capt. J. Bozicevich, Police Dept.

Ald. Costello in the Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Proposed Rezoning - 7751 Harwood Avenue

The committee reviewed a proposed ordinance amending the official zoning map by rezoning the land at 7751 Harwood Avenue from AA Business to BB Two-Family Residence District. Ms. Welch, Community Development Director, pointed out the area on an aerial view. She indicated that St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church plans to construct a new building on the site. Dan Schmall, 533 N. 72nd Street, was present representing the church.

Moved by Ald. Heins, seconded by Ald. Ecks to recommend adoption of the proposed ordinance. Ayes: 8

Proposed Business Planned Development - 10900 W. Blue Mound Road

The committee reviewed a proposed ordinance amending the official zoning map by rezoning the land at 10900 W. Blue Mound Road from AA Business to Business Planned Development. Referring to an aerial view, Ms. Welch reported that a 44-unit apartment building will be constructed on the site of the former Camelot Motel. A Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) District is being created to help finance the project, recognizing that there are site acquisition and preparation costs that are beyond what is normal for a site of this type.

Moved by Ald. Ecks, seconded by Ald. Herzog to recommend adoption of the proposed ordinance –

Ms. Welch responded to further questions relating to the proposed TIF District and noted that a creation resolution will be before the Council at the April 16 meeting.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 8

Street Festival Permit – Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

The committee reviewed a request by Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 2160 Wauwatosa Avenue, for a street festival permit for Grecian Festival 2002 on the church grounds June 7-9, 2002. Stelios Georgakas, parish treasurer, 4400 S. 117th Street, was present. He indicated that the festival would be held under

the same provisions approved in 2001 with the exception that there would be music on both Saturday and Sunday from 3:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Ald. Becker emphasized the importance of meeting all requirements, especially clearing the parking lot, removing refuse, and emptying the dumpster. He noted that a deposit was required two years ago to ensure compliance and that requirement could be reinstated if necessary.

Moved by Ald. Ecks, seconded by Ald. Krol, to recommend approval under the provisions approved in 2001 with the addition of music on Sunday as well as Saturday from 3:30 to 9:30 p.m. Ayes: 8

Proposed Policies and Procedures for Use of the Police Firing Range

Capt. Bozicevich reported on an internal review of policies and procedures relating to the outdoor firing range that involved input from other City departments as well as departmental firearm and ballistic experts. He said that the two goals that were kept in mind were safety to those using the range as well as people in the area and accountability, i.e., designing a system with the ability to account for each and every round fired. He indicated that physical changes to the earthen berm endorsed by this committee in December 2001 should be substantially complete in another week or so, effectively raising the berm's height from 25 to 35 feet. The Budget and Finance Committee tonight will review a request for funds to seed the berm and install a 6-8 ft. stockade fence at its top.

Among the recommend changes is an increase in the firearm instructor/student ratio so that there is at least one instructor for every two students. This will achieve greater safety and accountability for everything than occurs on the range, Capt. Bozicevich said. He displayed drawings depicting firing angles in relation to berm height and explained how both static and dynamic training would safely take place. Static training, which involves shooting on command at a static target, would occur in an area from 60 feet to 120 feet from the base of the berm. Dynamic training in which an officer is under some pressure and stress, actively moving from one station to another while taking cover and firing off rounds, would take place within 60 feet of the base of the berm.

There are also plans to make better use of "simunition," involving special weapons and simulated ammunition, which would be used in dynamic shooting exercises to simulate conditions an officer might find on the street. The ammunition loses velocity very quickly and is not capable of seriously hurting or killing someone. There is no chance of it ending up in a residential area; at most, it would very clearly fall just beyond the berm. Although there will still be a need to practice with live fire, simunition is a reasonable alternative that can be used to decrease the amount of live fire.

Videotaping of each training session is also being proposed, which could help account for all rounds fired and would be useful in training.

The department also plans to experiment with frangible ammunition, which is designed to immediately disintegrate upon striking a hard object such as a target or the berm. There is no chance of ricocheting. The ammunition is non-lead, complying with the switch to all non-lead ammunition about a year and a half ago. Results of testing this ammunition should be available in 2-3 months.

New 3D targets, which are made of a material that would not allow a bullet to ricochet, are also being proposed. They cost about \$350 each, but pieces are interchangeable and can be easily replaced. They are very realistic and have been used by the SRT team with good results. Capt. Bozicevich anticipated that four would be needed. They could last up to three years.

Ald. McCarthy said that he has discussed the proposed changes with police staff at some length and is comfortable that the proposed safety measures seem to address the known contingencies. He noted, however, that they do not address the noise that has been the subject of complaints by abutting residents and also by car dealers

along Mayfair Road. He also pointed out that a plan that is under consideration for developing the adjoining area calls for recreational use immediately north of the police station and a 16-18 home residential area north of that. Although development may not occur for 10-15 years, it should be kept in mind, he felt. He supported moving forward with the proposed changes, monitoring their success very closely and doing whatever is necessary to make it an acceptable project. He commented on the fact that improvements can be made without significant cost when compared to the potential costs of off-site training.

Moved by Ald. Heins, seconded by Ald. Becker to recommend accepting the report establishing the new policies and procedures –

Ald. Heins asked about the shooting distance in live ammunition exercises. Capt. Bozicevich said that live training has probably been taking place at a distance of 80-100 feet from the base of the berm. Upon review, however, it is now felt that live training should be conducted much closer to the berm.

Ald. Krol recalled a past visit to the target range by Council members and raised the possibility of another invitation. Capt. Bozicevich agreed that the changes in the berm are impressive when viewed in person. He felt that they will address a lot of the noise complaints also, since it not only is 10 feet higher but sweeps around the two sides to a point where a lot of the noise will be directed back toward the south.

Ald. Herzog reported that he was on-site recently and has to wonder how any bullet could ever get past the berm. He indicated, however, that he would still have preferred digging it out more.

Responding to a question from Ald. Ecks, Capt. Bozicevich estimated that the outdoor range has been at this site for at least 40 years. Asked further about rapid fire weapons, he said their use has been severely restricted in response to neighbors' complaints. He noted that policies have been changed often when neighbors have complained since the department wants to be a good neighbor and do what is right for the neighborhood.

Ald. Sullivan asked about the back of the berm. Capt. Bozicevich said a chain link fence was removed to allow for hauling of fill. It had deteriorated to the extent that not much is salvageable. Portions that are still usable will be reinstalled once seeding is done and the new stockade fence is in place, possibly connecting with the stockade fence at the top. A perimeter fence will probably be requested sometime in the coming year. Range policy requires one of the range officers to drive to the back side to be sure no one is present whenever the range is being used.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 8

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

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