

Ordinance & Police Committee Meeting – January 11, 2021

The Ordinance & Police Committee of the City of Aledo met in Open Session via video communications on January 11, 2021. Chairman MICHAEL CHAUSSE called the meeting to order at 7:11 P.M. The roll was called, whereupon the following committee members answered present:

Aldermen ILA BERTRAND, TERRY BEWLEY, MICHAEL CHAUSSE, and CHRIS KOPP. Mayor CHRISTOPHER HAGLOCH.

Also present were DENNIS DIXON, Alderman, JIM HOLMES, Alderman, LINDA SARABASA, Alderman, CHRIS SULLIVAN, City Administrator / Chief of Police, JUSTIN BLASER, Director of Public Works & Utilities, and JAROD DALE, City Clerk.

The media was represented by Jim Taylor, WRMJ.

Approval of Committee Minutes: Motion was made by ALD. BEWLEY and seconded by ALD. BERTRAND to approve the Ordinance & Police Committee meeting minutes of 09/28/20 as presented. A Unanimous voice vote followed in agreement.

Public Comment – No Report.

Old Business – No Report.

New Business –

Discussion regarding Home Kitchen Operations in the City of Aledo:

Current State law requires that the Health Department enforce certain regulations and restrictions regarding the preparation of food which is to be sold to the general public. Prepared foods must be produced in a certified commercial kitchen. Persons preparing the food must have certifications in food handling and preparation.

CHIEF Sullivan reported the restrictions make it nearly impossible for most people and organizations to sell baked goods and other food items which are easily cooked/baked in a normal household kitchen. The Illinois legislature passed a statute which would allow for local government bodies to pass ordinances allowing the preparation and retail sale of non-hazardous food items without meeting the commercial kitchen regulations. The statute is commonly referred to as the “Cupcake Law.”

CHIEF spoke with a representative of the Mercer County Health Department about the possibility of adopting a Cupcake Ordinance. They discussed the Health Department’s stance on adopting such an ordinance. CHIEF was told the Health Department

supported the possibility of Aledo adopting a Cupcake Ordinance. It would have no bearing on restaurants or other food preparation businesses in Aledo. Additionally, it would allow individuals, church groups, and other organizations and small businesses to sell homemade goods on a limited basis. The Health Department would still have the responsibility and authority to check out any complaints.

Adoption of the proposed ordinance would make it possible for individuals and groups to sell baked goods and other food items throughout the year. They would not be limited to a three (3) hour period on Thursdays, during the Farmers' Market season, or at special City-wide events. There are limitations on how much can be sold and what can be sold. Those requirements would be listed in the ordinance.

CHIEF spoke with City Attorney Mark Walton and requested his advice about adopting a Cupcake Ordinance. The CITY ATTORNEY did recommend the City adopt the ordinance. CITY ATTORNEY noted the process as simple and would not require the City to oversee or regulate individuals or groups producing the food items.

ALD. Chausse inquired if there had been any negative feedback received by City Staff. Hearing none, the Chairman called for a motion.

Motion was made by ALD. Chausse and seconded by ALD. Bewley to move the "Cupcake Ordinance" to full Council. A Roll call vote was recorded as follows:

YES: Bertrand, Bewley, and Chausse. NO: None. ABSTAIN: Kopp. Motion carried. 3 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention.

Discussion regarding Neighborhood Vehicle Registration:

CHIEF Sullivan reported the City currently has around 85 registered NV permits and the MAYOR has inquired from the Committee if inspections should be done yearly or not. Suggestions were voiced to just consider those who submit renewal sticker applications to only provide an updated proof of insurance and payment for the renewal sticker. Providing photo ID's and licenses would still be required.

ALD. Chausse requested the Committee consider eliminating reoccurring inspections but if the neighborhood vehicle changed then a new inspection would be required.

Motion was made by ALD. Bertrand and seconded by ALD. Chausse to eliminate annual inspections on renewal applications for golf cars and NV permits unless a new golf cart or NV is purchased. A Roll call vote was recorded as follows:

YES: Bewley, Chausse, Kopp, and Bertrand. NO: None. Motion carried. 4 yeas, 0 nays.

Also, the Committee discussed prorating the first (1st) year if an applicant applies after a certain time-period within the year. Discussions included original permits issued on or before June 30th would have a fee of \$50.00. Original permits issued on or after July 1st per golf cart or NV would have a fee of \$25.00. The permit renewal fee would remain at \$50.00. The item to also be included for approval by the Aledo City Council at the January 19th City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion was made by ALDERMAN BERTRAND and seconded by ALDERMAN KOPP that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous voice vote followed in agreement. Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Jarod M. Dale, City Clerk