



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Downtown Lounge Public Address System Application

Preferred Agenda: July 27, 2021

Submitted By: J. Lynn, Chief of Police

Reviewed By: Blair Larsen, City Manager Pro Tem

Type of Action: Resolution ____ Motion X Roll Call ____ Other ____

Relevant Code/Policy: Sweet Home Municipal Code § 9.20.020

Towards Council Goal: Economic Strength

Attachments: Application-Public Address System
TUAL Application

Purpose of this RCA:

The Downtown Lounge is expanding their service to include an outdoor venue during the Oregon Jamboree weekend. As part of the outdoor venue, a Public Address (PA) Permit has been requested.

Background/Context:

During the first part of July 2021 Katherine Julian, the owner of the Downtown Restaurant and Lounge, submitted applications to expand their services during the Oregon Jamboree Weekend. The expanded services will include a fenced outdoor venue on the existing business property that will have alcohol sales, seating, and amplified music. The amplified music will be in the form of DJ equipment. This same event had been hosted for the past several years during the Oregon Jamboree.

On July 14th, 2021, members of the Sweet Home Police Department and the Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District and a member of the Oregon State Fire Marshals met with Ms. Julian. A list of requirements was discussed, and Ms. Julian indicated that she would comply with those, just as in previous years.

The application for the PA permit indicates that the music amplification will include a DJ, speakers and amps. The form indicates that the broadcast sound will travel beyond 1000 feet which according to SHMC 9.20.020 will need to be approved by the City Council.

The PA permit also lists the dates and times for amplification of music. The request is for the permit to run from Friday (07/30/21) through Sunday (08/01/21) between the times of 8:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. on each night (12:00 a.m. Sunday).

Historically, several members of the neighborhood directly north of the business property (1200 Block of Nandina Street) have expressed concerns over the noise level of the event.

In 2019, the Sweet Home City Council approved this request and after review of the Sweet Home Police Department's records, we found that no complaints of music were received.

The Challenge/Problem:

The challenge of the request for the PA Permit is to blend the interests of the business with those of the surrounding neighborhood.

The business is requesting the PA Permit for an event that only runs three days a year and will play music until 1:00 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 12:00 a.m. on Sunday. The intent of the request is to further promote their business and the event.

Stakeholders:

- Sweet Home Citizens – Citizens that live within proximity to the event may have their quality of life temporarily affected by the sound amplification coming from the event. Other citizens and community members may benefit from the entertainment offered by the event.
- Downtown Lounge – By allowing the requested times on the PA Permit, the event and business will be enhanced.
- Sweet Home Police Staff – The on-duty Supervisor needs a defined time to ensure that the allowed amplification of music is complied with.
- Sweet Home City Council – SHMC 9.20.020 dictates that the Council may suspend the 1000-foot limitation and grant a sound amplifying permit.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

The city and the Police Department will not be impacted by event. Any issues and potential financial impacts will be associated with the Downtown Restaurant and Lounge and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

The Sweet Home City Council should determine a fair and equitable solution associated with the PA Permit times. The needs of the business and the needs of the surrounding neighborhood must be considered.

Options:

1. Approve the requested PA Permit – This would allow for the Downtown Lounge to play amplified music in the outdoor venue from 8:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. on Friday (07/30/21) and Saturday (07/31/21), and 8:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. on Sunday (08/01/21).
2. Deny the request – This would not allow for the amplification of music at the outdoor event.
3. Amend the requested PA Permit – The City Council can choose to amend the request by adjusting the times permitted on one or all days. Examples could include allowing the amplification of music until 1:30 a.m. on Friday (07/30/21), until 1:30 a.m. on Saturday (07/31/21) and until 10:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Option 1, Approve the requested PA Permit, which would allow for the Downtown Lounge to play amplified music in the outdoor venue from 8:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. on Friday (07/30/21) and Saturday (07/31/21), and 8:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. on Sunday (08/01/21).