



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Request for Council Action – Downtown Lounge Public Address System Application

Preferred Agenda: June 27, 2023

Submitted By: Jason Ogden, Chief of Police

Reviewed By: Kelcey Young, City Manager

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

Relevant Code/Policy: SHMC 9.20.020

Towards Council Goal: Economic Strength

Attachments: Application – Public Address System and 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 June 2023, 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.

I contacted Ms. Julian regarding the application. 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 Thursday (08/03/23) through Sunday (08/06/23). The actual times listed on the PA permit is between the times of 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. Thursday and Sunday and then 8:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

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 2022, the Sweet Home City Council did approve this request and the 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 associated with blending the interests of the business with those of the surrounding neighborhood.

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

Stakeholders:

- City of Sweet Home Citizens – Citizens that live within proximity to the event may have their level of livability 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.
- City of Sweet Home Police Staff – The on-duty Supervisor needs a defined time to for the allowed amplification of music to ensure that it is complied with.
- City of 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 12:00 a.m. on Thursday (08/03/23), 8:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. on Friday (08/04/23) and Saturday (08/05/23), 8:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. on Sunday (08/06/23).
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 12:00 a.m. on Friday (08/04/23), until 1:30 a.m. on Saturday (08/05/23) and until 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends option #1. This would allow for the Downtown Lounge to play amplified music in the outdoor venue from 8:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. on Thursday (08/03/23), 8:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. on Friday (08/04/23) and Saturday (08/05/23), 8:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. on Sunday (08/06/23).