

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

**February 22, 2018
11:30 AM
Fairbanks Police Department**

PSC Members:	Joy Huntington (Seat A - 2018)	Stephen Heckman (Seat E - 2018)
	Tom Temple (Seat B - 2018)	Jason Doxey (Seat F - 2019)
	Rich Meyer (Seat C - 2019)	Jason McComas-Roe (Seat G - 2020)
	Buzzy Chiu, Chairman (Seat D - 2020)	Thomas Carter (Seat H - 2020)

Special Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chairman Chiu at 11:33am. Attendance: Tom Temple, Rich Meyer, Buzzy Chiu, Stephen Heckman, Jason Doxey, Jason McComas-Roe and Tom Carter. The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the 2nd Avenue Tap House Premises Extension. Also in attendance were the following City of Fairbanks Department representatives: Dani Snider – City Clerk, Paul Ewers – City Attorney, Jeff Jacobs – PW Director, Kyle Green – Deputy Fire Marshal, Dan Welborn – Deputy Police Chief, and Stephanie Johnson – Director FECC. There was no public testimony offered.

2nd Ave Tap House Premises Extension:

History: During the summer of 2017, Noble Street was closed due to construction. This created a situation in which traffic to businesses along 2nd Avenue was limited. The City of Fairbanks granted a temporary permit for Lavelle's Tap House to extend their premises into the public right of way, based on the reduced traffic cause. This was a successful configuration for the business and they are requesting permission the City Council to grant them a seasonal extension of their premises, allowing them to set up outside seating from the front of their building to the street side perimeter of the parking lots in front of their building from approximately May 1st to October 1st annually.

Multiple City departments have protested this request. Many of the same concerns were shared by the various agencies and are summarized as follows:

- There are significant safety concerns allowing public seating to extend into the “roadway” even with jersey barriers. The barriers do not prevent patrons from extending limbs into the roadway and there is no space between the barriers and traffic.
- The traffic along 2nd Avenue was not thru traffic in 2017, and with the traffic pattern restored, there will be much more traffic and larger vehicles (trucks and buses) using that section of road. The jersey barriers will not provide protection from things protruding from (like mirrors) or things falling from the larger vehicles.
- The proposed layout of the barriers is not sufficient to route traffic away from seated patrons should a vehicle impact them. An adequate layout would require additional parking spaces to be used in order to create the correctly angled barrier.
- Concern this would set a precedent. If one establishment is allowed to do so, then there would not be any grounds to prohibit others from making the same request.
- Use of public spaces and parking lots is ok for special events, but should not be a routine practice. During those special events, extra steps are taken to block or restrict traffic, and public safety agencies continually monitor the event.
- Parking downtown is already at a premium.
- The City should be commended for its support of the TapHouse last year when it faced a business impact caused by the traffic restriction, but circumstances are different and public safety should be the basis of the decision on this request.
- If the council approves this request, the council should identify how and by whom complaints are to be mitigated.

The following motion was approved unanimously: “The Public Safety Commission recommends the Fairbanks City Council deny the request for an extension of premises for Lavelle’s Taphouse.”

Meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm