

Administrative Committee

February 1, 2016

Present: Robkin and Alt

Absent: Ellington

Also Present: Mayor Palm, Clerk Giese, Adm. Geick, Chief Schauf, Clint Hutchinson, Ron Cowan and media

The meeting was called to order by Ald. Robkin at noon, noting compliance with the Open Meetings law.

Moved by Alt and seconded by Robkin and carried to approve the minutes of January 4, 2016. Motion by Alt, seconded by Robkin to approve the agenda and carried unanimously.

Airport Operations: No report since the only activity since last month has been to send the annual rent invoices.

Baraboo Country Club special exception for noise: The Committee reviewed a request from Baraboo Country Club for a special exception to Section 9.06 for Loud and Unnecessary Noise. They reported that they begin their mowing time at sunrise for the safety of the golfers and mowing personnel. Last summer they received noise complaints from a neighbor about 1000 yards away. They stated that their mufflers are in good repair and they have altered their mowing patterns in an attempt to alleviate the concern. However, only one complaint has been received and the Committee questioned the definition used in the code of "unreasonable noise" and "unreasonably disturbing a person of ordinary sensibilities". The code goes on to prohibit noise generated by among other things, lawn mowers between 10 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. Chief Schauf explained that in enforcing the code, officers abide by the hours restriction since that is more clearly defined than deciding what unreasonable means. Robkin suggested that the Country Club consider better mufflers, changing workflow, redirecting noise or any other reasonable accommodations and report back at the next meeting.

Public Memorial or Facility Naming Policy – Adm. Geick reported that this item has been reviewed by the Park Board who has made several recommendations which have already been included in the draft being reviewed by the Committee. This policy covers city structures and other agencies are required to follow city ordinances for signage. Moved by Alt, seconded by Robkin and carried unanimously to recommend the policy for approval to the Council.

Chicken Licenses – Chief Schauf recommended on changing the chicken license to expire every other year. The current ordinance states that licenses expire annually and that the coops be inspected annually. His department has not received complaints about the coop conditions or keeping of chickens so he feels that every other year is a better use of staff time. Moved by Alt, seconded by Robkin and carried unanimously to recommend changing the code for chicken licenses to expire every other year.

Lumsden Airport Lease – William Lumsden has requested that his Airport Lot Lease for Lot 6, 206 2nd Street, be assigned to William J. Lumsden and Jacquelyn J. Lumsden Living Trust. Moved by Alt, seconded by Robkin and carried unanimously.

Next meeting is to be held March 7, 2016 at 12 p.m.

Moved by Robkin, seconded by Alt and carried to adjourn.

Cheryl M. Giese
Clerk-Finance Director

Ordinance No.

The City of Baraboo, Wisconsin

Background: The Administrative Committee heard a request from the Baraboo Country Club to amend Baraboo Code of Ordinances §9.06(3). The Baraboo Country Club is currently violating the ordinance for business reasons to accommodate early tee times in order to remain competitive in the business and for the safety of the maintenance crew to avoid exposure to flying golf balls. The golf course must be maintained daily. It is not technically or economically feasible for the existing operation and equipment to comply with the noise standards. The Baraboo Country Club has begun lawn maintenance at sunrise for at least the last 19 years.

The ordinance amendment would allow an exception to the noise prohibition for lawn mowing equipment at the Baraboo Country Club to begin work at 5:30 a.m. from May 1st until September 30 of each year.

Fiscal Note: (check one) Not Required Budgeted Expenditure Not Budgeted Comments:

An Ordinance amending §9.06(3), Loud and Unnecessary Noise Prohibited, to provide for an exception for the Baraboo Country Club.

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BARABOO, WISCONSIN, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

1. **9.06 LOUD AND UNNECESSARY NOISE PROHIBITED.** (4) The Baraboo Country Club is granted an exception to subsection (3) and allowed to operate lawn mowing equipment for the purpose of golf course maintenance beginning at 5:30 a.m. from May 1st until September 30th of each year.
2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as provided by law.

Mayor's Approval: _____

Clerk's Certification: _____

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was duly passed by the Common Council of the City of Baraboo on the ____ day of _____, 2016 and is recorded on page ____ of volume ____.

City Clerk: _____

Received 4-4-16 at 9:50 AM

Baraboo Country Club
Come and Join Us

April 4, 2016

Morning Maintenance Work Flow

The following is a description of guidelines the BCC grounds team will follow in an effort to minimize noise traveling to the Southwest of the Maintenance Shop in the early hours. These guidelines have been created through a combined effort of General Manager, Clint Hutchens, and Course Superintendent, Jeremy Braudt.

- All equipment will be started in the shed and pulled out on the **north** end of the building.
- During cooler months some equipment requires a 5 minute warm-up which will also be conducted on the **north** side of the building.
- All fueling will be conducted at the end of the day so as to eliminate the need for equipment to use the fuel tanks on the **southwest** corner of the building during the early morning hours.
- All equipment will travel to the **northeast** toward #10 tee when leaving the Maintenance Shop, no matter their destination on the course.
- All muffler systems will be kept well maintained and replaced if needed. After market upgrades do not exist at this time for our current equipment.

Noise Buffering Options:

We also looked into outdoor sound control systems/options and have found that the return is hardly worth the effort. Tom Ewert of Acoustical Surfaces out of Chaska, MN was able to provide us with pricing for their Echo Barrier panels which would be hung on a chain link fence.

The panels are 4.5'x6.5'. To construct a wall which would provide a minimum overall noise reduction it would need to be 45 feet wide and 13 feet tall set at the appropriate angle. This would require a fence capable of holding 20 panels and withstanding the related wind issues. These 20 panels alone would run \$5,115 or \$255.75 each.

His opinion is that the existing wood line provides more of a noise buffer than any product they offer.

We also contacted Dr. Doug Soldat, UW Turf Management Specialist, and his suggestions were to keep mufflers in good working order, but the hydraulic "whine" is often times the noise maker in this scenario; therefor, mowing the interior of the course first where



possible and then moving to the bordering property later in the rotation. Avoiding start-up noise as much as possible is also a pro-active and reasonable tactic. He too was in agreement however that the existing trees are providing the best sound barrier available.

After Market Muffler Options

We were able to speak with Frank Gould of Nelson Global Products. This company specializes in custom muffler systems. He informed us that there really isn't enough of a market for "after-market" mufflers for lawn equipment. As such no companies are currently spending any money to produce them.

It was his opinion that if we were able to completely silence the muffler on our mowers we would only be addressing roughly 25% of the noise problem. The hydraulics, blades and other mechanical systems account for the remaining 75% of the noise created during operation.

Other Considerations

Another avenue available to us as we move forward is the consideration of looking at available electric equipment when the time comes to replace our existing equipment as these technologies have greatly improved recently.

For the time being we would like to request an exception to the ordinance allowing us to begin work at sunrise.

Submitted By:

Clint Hutchens, PGA
GM/Head Professional
BarabooCC@Yahoo.com