



Minutes
Committee #3
Transportation, Construction, Public Safety and Traffic

Committee #3 met Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 10:45 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 30 West Central Street, Chippewa Falls, WI.

Council/Committee Members present: Mike Hanke, Bill Hicks, Jane Lardahl, George Adrian, Rob Kiefer, Amy Mason, and Mayor Hoffman.

Others present: Police Chief Wendy Stelter, City Attorney Robert Ferg, and City Clerk Bridget Givens.

The meeting was called to order at 10:46 am.

1. Discuss and consider amending Chapter 9 – Orderly Conduct, §9.015 Firearms in Public Buildings and City-Owned Vehicles Prohibited, of the City of Chippewa Falls Municipal Code. Possible recommendations to Council.

Councilor Hanke indicated this agenda item was predicated upon his discussion with a few City employees who expressed discomfort with the issue of security relative to the concealed weapons prohibited signage in municipal buildings.

Councilor Mason questioned if the signs are an attempt to fix a larger issue. This led to discussion regarding a safety survey that had been done and brief discussion on the results of the survey. Councilor Hicks thought that many of the survey suggestions could be implemented quite affordably.

The Committee discussed the need to relocate the security officer present at the Council meetings to the front of the Chambers to have a full view of the audience at all times. **Motion by Hicks/Lardahl** to recommend relocating the security officer to the front of the Council Chambers at one of the current reporter desks beginning with the first meeting in January 2014. **All present voting aye, motion carried.**

City Attorney Ferg advised that without the sign, the City cannot prosecute someone for carrying a concealed weapon within a municipal building. The signs currently posted are tailored for concealed carry as it is already considered a Class A misdemeanor for someone to have an open firearm in a municipal building. Ferg also advised that by policy, employees could be exempted from the concealed carry provision; the ordinance would simply have to be modified.

Further discussion ensued regarding statutory interpretation on open carry versus concealed carry. The Committee feels this item will require additional discussion. As part of that discussion, the Committee would also like to address the safety survey. As such, Chief Stelter was directed to redistribute the safety survey and bring it back to Committee #3 within six weeks.

No action taken.

2. Adjournment

Motion by Hicks/Lardahl to adjourn at 11:39 am. **All present voting aye, motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by:
Mike Hanke, Chair

9.015 FIREARMS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND CITY-OWNED VEHICLES

PROHIBITED. (Cr. #2011-12)

(1)

FIREARMS PROHIBITED. Pursuant to §943.13(1m)(c)4., Wis. Stats., no person shall enter or remain in any part of a building owned, occupied or controlled by the State of Wisconsin or a local government unit if the State or local governmental unit has notified the person not to enter or to remain in the building while carrying a firearm or a specific type of firearm.

(2)

SIGNS. The Public Works Department shall cause signs to be erected at all entrances to all buildings owned, occupied or under the control of the City of Chippewa Falls which shall provide notice that no person is to enter or remain in any such building while carrying a firearm. Such signs shall be five inches by seven inches or larger.

(3)

FIREARMS IN VEHICLES. No person shall carry a firearm while in a City-owned vehicle, including emergency medical vehicles. Emergency medical personnel are hereby authorized to remove a firearm from the immediate bodily possession of any person being transported. The firearm shall be returned to the person being transported when it is safe to do so and no longer violates any prohibition against possession of a firearm.

(4)

PEACE OFFICERS EXCEPTED. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to prohibit a peace officer or armed forces or military personnel armed in the line of duty or any person duly authorized by the Chief of Police to possess a firearm in any public building or in a City-owned vehicle.

(5)

NON-AUTHORIZATION. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the carrying of any firearm or dangerous weapon contrary to §941.23 or §941.235, Wis. Stats.

(6)

PENALTY. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be required to forfeit not less than \$250 nor more than \$500, plus any applicable court costs. Each violation shall be a separate offense.