

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Building Inspection Ad-Hoc Committee
Held on Tuesday, October 12th, 2021 Pursuant to Notice Duly Given**

1. Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Heier.
2. Roll Call: Mayor Heier, Chief Mike Rehberg, Ron Daul, Al Schreiber, Joseph Last, and Brittney Bickel-also as recording secretary
Excused: Jeremy Wusterbarth, Chief Josh Bostedt, and Kim Bronikowski
Also present: Kent Tempus-Reporter, Attorney Frank Calvert, Alderman John Reed, Riley Sowle and Anita Jensen.
3. Approval of Agenda.
Motion by Daul, second by Schreiber to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried upon verbal voice vote. 6 ayes M/C
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 9/14/2021.
Motion by Schreiber, second by Daul to approve meeting minutes from 9/14/2021 as presented.
Motion carried upon verbal voice vote. 6 ayes M/C
5. Correspondence/Public Input: None.
6. Discussion/Possible Recommendation on:
 - a. Review of Barn Wedding Venue held on September 25th, 2021: Building Inspector, Joe Last, handed out and went over a reminder sheet and the ordinance for Conditional Use Permits and Restrictions on Permitted Home Occupations. He stated that he received a phone call from Thompson, who was calling as a representative for the neighborhood, with the following complaints on the September 25th trial wedding at the barn venue: fighting/yelling in the parking lot, smell of cigarettes and perfume, car lights shining in windows. He believed if the parking was moved from the back of the barn to across the road, all these problems would be solved. Mayor Heier stated that he received the same phone call, as well as all the Alderpersons, and wanted to add that Thompson and the neighbors were happy with the band and the noise level. Riley Sowle, owner of 1240 McDonald St and the venue in question, chimed in that he also noticed the problems with the vehicle lights and has no problem moving the parking across the street. Anita Jensen, also the owner of 1240 McDonald St and the venue in question, mentioned they may be able to put the parking lot close to the walking path. Rehberg mentioned it would be a good idea to stripe the crossing area and put-up signs. Attorney Calvert commented that it would be a good idea to put the crossing by the streetlight that is at the corner of the driveway. Schreiber also suggested having a special cone or sign with a flashing light that is put out only on event days to bring extra attention. Sowle stated that he agrees with all the comments and that side of the property is open and shrub-free. Reed brought up that he is concerned about the Section (c)(1) in the Ordinance and what they would have to do to qualify here. Schreiber asked if they would apply once for the Conditional Use Permit or if they would have to apply before every event, stating that when the Governor's Mansion had a restaurant in it, they only had to apply once. Joe Last explained they would need approval of the Conditional Use Permit by the Plan Commission and Council one time only, and it would only be null and void if sale or

transfer of property or expansion was done. Riley Sowle explained that they have around 30 people asking them for tours and to book events at the venue 1-2 year out. They are looking for answers soon. They are happy to do paving for the parking lot, but only if they know they will be allowed to operate their business and make money. Attorney Calvert answered that we are moving forward with this but have never had anything like this in the city before. It takes time to make sure all ordinances are being followed. We reached out to other municipalities and no cities have ever had anything like this before either. There have only been wedding venues in townships. Sowle stated that they might plan to keep it outdoor and eliminate the barn. Attorney Calvert answered that makes it more difficult, since strictly outside the home is harder to reconcile with the ordinance. Schreiber stated that we should start moving forward with the Conditional Use Permit and go from there. Joe Last stated he will investigate R2 zoning guidelines further, and work with Riley Sowle and Anita Jensen to make a comprehensive plan and apply for the Conditional Use Permit.

- b. Discussion on Airbnbs: Joe Last wanted to make the Committee aware that there has been a huge influx in Airbnbs in the City of Oconto. Some municipalities charge a Room Tax on Airbnbs and this could be an option in the future. Right now, Arbnbs in Oconto are treated like regular rentals. They register with the city, but there is nothing else in the ordinances. Chief Rehberg mentioned that the Police Department has had zero problems with them in the past or currently.

7. Adjournment.

Motion by Daul, second by Rehberg to adjourn at 5:42 pm.

Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.

6 ayes M/C

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brittney M. Bickel,

City Administrator