



MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: October 7, 2014
REGULAR
ITEM # 12

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Massage Therapy License
SUBMITTED BY: Beckie Gumatz, Deputy Clerk
THROUGH: Dean Zuleger, City Administrator
REVIEWED BY: Adam Bell, City Clerk/Assistant City Administrator
Washington County Sheriff's Office

SUGGESTED ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- Introduction of Item City Administrator
- Report/Presentation.....City Administrator
- Questions from Council to Staff..... Mayor Facilitates
- Call for Motion Mayor & City Council
- Discussion..... Mayor & City Council
- Action on Motion..... Mayor Facilitates

POLICY RECOMMENDER: City Staff

FISCAL IMPACT: increase of \$200 for first year license fee; \$50 annual renewal fee

SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED: The City has received a new Massage Therapy License application, required fees, and insurance certificate. As the application is in order, and a background check was approved by Washington County, it is respectfully requested that following the public hearing, Council approve the application by taking the following action:

“Move to approve a Massage Therapy Premise License for Nirvana Massage and Spa, LLC, and a Massage Therapist License to Yuanfen Liu as presented.”

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: The City of Lake Elmo instituted a city license structure in December of 2012 in order to better regulate the practice of therapeutic massage in Lake Elmo. This past action has already produced positive results in several instances. A public hearing is required for the consideration of any new massage licenses issued by the City.

The City is respectfully requested to consider granting a massage therapy license to the following applicant:

Yuanfen Liu and Craig Zorn – Nirvana Massage and Spa, LLC, 11240 Stillwater Blvd N

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (SWOT):

Strengths Approval of this license aides the City in knowing who is performing these and related services, what services are being provided, and where these services are being provided, which in turn helps protect the welfare of the residents, visitors and local businesses. Aside from the minimal increase in license fees the City receives, the addition of small-business commerce is a positive for the city and should be encouraged.

Weaknesses N/A

Opportunities Continue working with the local massage therapy community and county law enforcement on efforts to eliminate bad actors from the industry and community as a whole and

Threats Unfortunately, the massage therapy industry does include bad actors who take advantage of massage business fronts for illegal acts such as prostitution. The City does not have any information that Nirvana will or would do this, but it would be ignoring the facts if the potential threat was not identified.

RECOMMENDATION: Based on the above information, City staff recommends that, following the required public hearing, Council approve the application by taking the following action:

“Move to approve a Massage Therapy Premise License for Nirvana Massage and Spa, LLC, and a Massage Therapist License to Yuanfen Liu as presented.”