



Riverdale nightspot agrees to make changes to renew liquor license

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Patrons of the Blu Alehouse will get to enjoy it for the upcoming year as the Borough Council voted at its Sept. 9 meeting to renew the nightspot's annual liquor license.

After longstanding complaints of loud noise from neighbors, and other concerns from the Police Department, the council was looking at placing conditions on the license.

At the meeting, Mayor William Budesheim said the Police Department and the proprietor's attorney, David Epstein, reached a deal to make some changes that would solve the problems that have been occurring, and approve the license without conditions.

The mayor said Police Chief Kevin Smith wrote a letter to the Borough Council stating that Blu Alehouse has been cooperative.

"There are nine months before the next renewal, and I think that will be a good test period to see if what they worked out with the chief works," the mayor said.

In an interview with Suburban Trends, Smith said Blu Alehouse has installed a system that controls the sound of the music, and it will sign a contract stating that it will reimburse the department to have an officer on patrol Friday and Saturday nights. The chief said so far the changes have improved the noise conditions.

"In the fall, we figure it will be a good test because the temperatures aren't as extreme and people will have their windows open. That will be a good time to see if the new music system is working," said Smith.

The conditions originally imposed included having all valet drivers register with the Police Department, ending outdoor seating at 9 p.m., removing speakers outside the establishment, keeping the windows closed when music is playing, and reimbursing the borough for the cost to have a police officer on duty.

Councilman Brad Clinton said he agreed with approving the license without conditions.

"I think it is a black mark on their license to do that to them. I think the chief feels pretty comfortable, judging from his letter. I think he said it was a good starting point, and they could tweak it along the way," said Clinton.

Epstein said, "We would prefer there not to be a condition because then that becomes a permanent part of the license."

"Once you put conditions on, it becomes a mark on the license, and it stays there even if they sell," said the mayor.

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