



MINUTES OF THE BLOOMINGTON  
SPECIAL LIQUOR COMMISSION  
October 18, 2016

**1. Call to order**

The special meeting of the Liquor Commission was called to order by Commissioner Renner at 4:00 p.m. on October 18, 2016.

**2. Present**

Commissioner Tari Renner, George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Asst. Police Chief Greg Scott, and Renee Gooderham, Chief Deputy Clerk.

**3. Public Comment**

Commissioner Renner opened the meeting to receive Public Comment. No individuals provided comments during the meeting.

**4. Consideration of approving the Commission minutes of September 13, 2016 and September 27, 2016.**

Commissioner Renner approved the Commission minutes of September 13, 2016 and September 27, 2016 as presented.

The following was presented:

**5. Consideration of the request from Chas Sollars & Paige Porzelius to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their November 19, 2016 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.**

Charles Sollars, addressed the Commission. Mr. Sollars stated that Times Past Inn would cater the reception. Beer and wine only would be served. Approximately 135 guests were anticipated.

Commissioner Renner stated that the request would appear on the November 14, 2016 Council Agenda.

The following was presented:

**6. Consideration of the request from Brian Scidmore & Janice Pettigrew to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their January 14, 2017 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.**

Janice Pettigrew, addressed the Commission. Ms. Pettigrew stated that Nelson's Catering would cater the reception. Beer and wine only would be served. Approximately 100 guests were anticipated.

Commissioner Renner stated that the request would appear on the November 14, 2016 Council Agenda.

The following was presented:

**7. Consideration of the request from Alan Hughes & Staci Gardner to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their April 29, 2017 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.**

Alan Hughes, addressed the Commission. Mr. Hughes stated that Hy-Vee would cater the reception. Beer and wine only would be served. Approximately 137 guests were anticipated.

Commissioner Renner stated that the request would appear on the November 14, 2016 Council Agenda.

The following was presented:

**8. Consideration on the application of Crawford's Corner Pub, LLC, d/b/a Crawford's Corner Pub, located at 610 W Chestnut, requesting a TAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week.**

Bob and Amy Crawford, owners/operators, addressed the Commissioner. Commissioner Renner questioned the business model. Mr. Crawford explained that the location was the former Beningo's Italian Restaurant (Beningo's). This would be a family friendly pub. Food would be served. To begin, there would be a light breakfast menu, then lunch and dinner. Commissioner Renner questioned a restaurant license versus a tavern. Mr. Crawford stated they anticipated selling more alcohol than food.

Commissioner Renner noted that the impact to the neighborhood had to be considered. Mr. Crawford responded, stating that he was invested in the neighborhood. He owned/operated Crawford Properties, LLC which purchased homes for rehabilitation and selling. The business had invested \$250,000 in a three (3) block radius in the last six (6) years. He resided two (2) blocks from the Pub. He considered himself fifth generation in the neighborhood. Larry Salvator, his partner in the applicant business, owned two (2) businesses in the neighborhood. Initially, they would invest \$100,000 to upgrade the building's exterior and interior.

Mr. Crawford believed that they, through the other businesses, had made good connections which would bring different people to the west side. The Pub would be his livelihood. He would be there daily. He stated that an empty building was not good. Mrs. Crawford noted

that they have raised their children in the neighborhood. The Pub would be similar to Western Tap.

Commissioner Renner cited concern with changing from a restaurant to a tavern in residential areas. He questioned video gaming. Mr. Crawford responded that they intended to have video gaming. Commissioner Renner stated concern with a tavern and gambling near Chestnut Health Systems, located at 702 W. Chestnut St. which offers addiction treatment. Mr. Crawford noted Chestnut's proximity to Thornton Oil and A & P Tap which are located in the neighborhood and also sell alcohol.

Mr. Boyle questioned the businesses owned by Mr. Salvator. Mr. Crawford stated LS Mechanical and Studio K9 located at 802 W. Chestnut St. Mr. Boyle questioned operating hours. Mr. Crawford stated they would open at 9:00 a.m. to serve breakfast. Closing would be the same as taverns, 1:00 a.m. weekdays and 2:00 a.m. weekends. Commissioner Renner cited concern with the closing hours. He noted that there could be a recommendation for earlier closing hours.

Mr. Boyle questioned available parking. Mr. Crawford noted additional parking was available in the adjacent lot across the street. He believed same had twenty-five to thirty (25-30) spaces. He did not believe there would be overflow parking on the streets. Mr. Boyle questioned a beer garden. Mr. Crawford stated that same was not currently in the plans.

Commissioner Renner opened the meeting for public testimony on this application.

David Sharr, Chief Clinical Officer at Chestnut Health Systems (CHS), spoke in opposition to the application. He noted that CHS had been in operation since 1973. They treat individuals with chemical dependency and mental health issues. They also provide housing for persons with mental illness. The location on Chestnut St. had a startup federally qualified Health Center to serve the health care needs of uninsured and Medicaid recipients. CHS had a great neighborhood relationship with Beningo's. The concern was the applicant's tavern license request versus a restaurant. The proposed tavern was directly across the street, approximately 90' to 100' from their entrance. Clientele would not be able to enter/exit CHS without seeing tavern signage. They serve approximately 1600 patients yearly. He believed the first (1st) ninety (90) days individuals were at the greatest risk for relapse. He believed a tavern with signage across the street could be a trigger. He noted that enhanced access to behavioral health services, partially substance abuse, was a priority for McLean County government. There was a behavioral health committee which was focused on improved access and providing resources to the community and law enforcement as an alternative to incarceration. He believed a tavern across the street was counter to the goal.

Commissioner Renner believed this business was potentially similar to Schooner's neighborhood operation. He questioned seeing signs after treatment effecting patients' relapse. Mr. Sharr stated that he could not list any scientific articles. Clinical experience suggested that there could be some individuals for whom having a tavern across the street would trigger an event.

Commissioner Renner questioned limiting external signage. Mr. Sharr stated they would be more reassured if the request was for a restaurant license. He believed this plan was to serve more alcohol than food.

Surrena Fish, 909 W. Wood St., addressed the Commission. She noted her experience with a neighborhood restaurant/tavern. The situation was resolved when the establishment was limited to no alcohol sales after 10:30 p.m. She had concerns with a tavern located in a residential neighborhood.

Johanna Chambers, 602 W. Chestnut St., addressed the Commission. She had lived and raised her children in the neighborhood for seventeen years. Her family continued to reside in the neighborhood. She believed the applicant's commitment would be similar to Beningo's. She noted that CHS medical entrance was across from A & P Tap. Mr. Boyle questioned where her home was located. Ms. Chambers stated that she was three (3) houses away, same side of the street. Mr. Boyle questioned noise in relationship to an establishment which was open until 2:00 a.m. on the weekends. Ms. Chambers stated that she can hear ISU's Horton's field house football games. She believed that she would be able to address those concerns with Mr. Crawford and Mr. Salvator.

Janet Whitworth, owner of Beningo's Italian Restaurant, addressed the Commission. She cited her belief in Mr. Crawford's and Mr. Salvator's business plan. She noted that this was a neighborhood which binds together. She questioned the difference between a restaurant and tavern, either one a person could obtain alcohol anytime. Mr. Boyle questioned Beningo's operating hours. Mrs. Whitworth stated 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. weeknights and 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. weekends.

Elmer Alseen, 916 N. Oak St., addressed the Commissioner. He was approximately four (4) houses from the proposed establishment. He was happy to see the investment and believes same would be an asset to the community. Crawford Properties, LLC maintained their homes.

Tom Crawford, Bob Crawford's father, addressed the Commissioner. He had resided in the neighborhood for approximately his entire life. Bob Crawford was family oriented.

Karen Baumen, 813 E. Miller St., addressed the Commissioner. She did not reside in the neighborhood. She was employed by Mr. Salvator. She had known Mr. Salvator for thirty (30) years. She believed Mr. Salvator was engaged in the community. He had invested \$200,000 in Studio K9 and LS Mechanical. She believed both owners would care for the building and be available to answer questions.

Alison Dixon, 614 W. Locust St., addressed the Commissioner. She resides across the street from Carls Ice Cream, located 601 W. Locust St. She cited her belief in the owner's ability to run a good establishment. She did not want to see a vacant building. Mr. Boyle questioned concerns with operation hours. Ms. Dixon stated negatively. She was able to hear things from Downtown Bloomington.

Carey Sneed, 608 W. Empire St., addressed the Commissioner. He had known the family for several years. He noted that Crawford Properties, LLC had rehabilitated several homes which were safe and livable. He believed they took pride in their neighborhood.

Commissioner Renner noted his original concern with the application. He noted the support from the stakeholders in the neighborhood. He questioned closing hours. Mr. Crawford responded 1:00 a.m. weeknights and 2:00 a.m. weekends. He was willing to negotiate.

Commissioner Renner questioned signage. Mr. Crawford noted that the building front would change to windows. All advertising would face away from Chestnut St. Potential signs would include weekly specials and sports memorabilia. Commissioner Renner cited a condition was to not allow banners facing Chestnut St. Mr. Crawford noted his support.

Commissioner Renner noted concern with closing hours. He would recommend closing at 11:00 Sunday through Thursday and midnight (12:00 a.m.) Friday and Saturday. If there were no problems or issues after 6 months, Mr. Crawford could submit a request to have the Liquor Commission review the condition. He questioned BASSETT (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education) training. Mr. Crawford stated he was BASSETT certified.

Commissioner Renner summarized the recommendation to the November 14, 2016 City Council Meeting: that the application of Crawford's Corner Pub, LLC, d/b/a Crawford's Corner Pub, located at 610 W. Chestnut, requesting a TAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week be approved contingent upon: 1.) closing hours Sunday through Thursday are 11:00 p.m. and closing on Friday and Sunday at midnight (12:00 a.m.). 2.) no signage including banners facing Chestnut Street.

The following was presented:

- 9. Consideration of a change of ownership from Keldon, Inc, d/b/a Times Past Inn, located at 1216 Towanda Ave, currently holding a RAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week.**

Art Donaldson, owner/operator, Times Past Inn, addressed the Commission. He added his wife, Judy Donaldson as a ten percent (10%) owner.

Commissioner Renner instructed the Clerk to address the appropriate letter to the State of Illinois Liquor Control Commission acknowledging same.

The following was presented:

- 10. Notification of a change of officer positions from Highland Park CVS LLC, d/b/a CVS/Pharmacy #8660 210 N Center St, CVS/Pharmacy #7017 1130 S Veterans Pkwy, currently holding a PAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types packaged alcohol for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week. Changes are: Jason D**

**Desrochers, Assistant Treasurer, was replaced by Sheelagh M Beaulieu, Assistant Treasurer. Kimberley M DeSousa, Assistant Secretary, was added.**

Commissioner Renner instructed the Clerk to address the appropriate letter to the State of Illinois Liquor Control Commission acknowledging same.

The following was presented:

- 11. Notification of Violation Payment from Marplayaa, Inc., d/b/a Windy City Wieners, located at 116 W Washington St, currently holding a RBS liquor license which allows the sale of beer and wine only by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week.**

Mr. Boyle noted that this was a first violation for Windy City Wieners. Same paid \$600.

The following was presented:

- 12. Notification of Violation Payment from TEDJ LLC, d/b/a Joe's Pub, located at 3907 GE Rd Suite 2, currently holding a RAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week.**

Mr. Boyle noted that this was a first violation for Joe's Pub. Same paid \$600.

The following was presented:

- 13. Continuation of Hearing Violation Complaint #2016-004 for MCTH, Inc., d/b/a Lucky Sevens, located at 1804 S Hershey Rd Unit 9, currently holding a TAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week.**

Terry Harris, owner/operator, Lucky Sevens and Joe Dehn, his legal counsel, addressed the Commission. Mr. Dehn provided a summary of the violations. He presented Exhibit 1 which provide a monthly break down of food/alcohol sales/percentages and video gaming revenue/percentages. Exhibits 2 and 3 were photographs of the expanded establishment.

Commissioner Renner noted Mr. Harris had corrected the Secretary of State good standing issue. Food/liquor sales had increased. Lucky Sevens was in compliance.

Commissioner Renner stated that for the violations Lucky Sevens would be levied \$250.

The following was presented:

- 14. Adjournment**

Time: 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Gooderham  
Chief Deputy Clerk