



MINUTES OF THE BLOOMINGTON  
LIQUOR COMMISSION  
March 13, 2018; 4:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order.**

The meeting of the Liquor Commission was called to order by Commissioner Renner at 4:00 P.M.

2. **Roll Call.**

Present: Commissioners Tari Renner, Lindsey Powell; Absent: Commissioner Jack Bataoel. Staff present: George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Asst. Police Chief Ken Bays, and Cherry Lawson, City Clerk.

3. **Public Comment.**

Jan Lancaster stated that she heard concern from multiple Bloomington Liquor License holders about being required to purchase a Certificate of Good Standing in order to renew their license. Ms. Lancaster expressed concern about the amount of the certificate (\$40-\$50) and asked why this needed to be a requirement. Ms. Lawson stated the reason for purchasing the certificate is because many business owners provide screenshots or pictures that cannot be adequately read. Ms. Lawson continued to say business owners may submit a screenshot if it is clear and provides all necessary information.

4. **Approval of Minutes.**

**Motion by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Renner to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2018 Liquor Commission meeting.**

**Motion carried, (viva voce).**

5. **Consideration of the request from Joseph C. Johnson and Andrea Pierce to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their June 16, 2018 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.**

Joseph C. Johnson appeared before the Commission and stated the wedding reception will be held on June 16, 2018 at Davis Lodge and beer and wine will only be served by Times Past Inn.

**Motion by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Renner to recommend at the April 9, 2018 City Council meeting, approval of the Joseph C. Johnson and Andrea Pierce request to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their June 16, 2018 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.**

Commissioner Renner directed the Clerk to call the roll which resulted in the following:

**Ayes: Commissioners Powell and Renner.**

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

- 6. Public Hearing on the request by PATH, Inc. located at 201 E. Grove Street, Bloomington, requesting an LA (Limited All Types) liquor license for an event to be held at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts on April 12, 2018 which would allow the sale of all types of liquor by the glass for consumption on the premises.**

Commissioner Renner opened the Public Hearing to receive testimony on this item and asked persons wishing to make a comment to come forward and sign in. Karen Zangerle, the Executive Director of PATH, addressed the Commission. She stated that this was the 9<sup>th</sup> year for this fundraiser. It would feature various types of cuisine from around the world cooked by volunteer chefs and there would also be drinks served that would match the cuisine. George Boyle stated that there had been no issues with this event occurring in the past.

Commissioner Renner asked Assistant Chief Bays if there were any concerns regarding this event, and Assistant Chief Bays responded that he has no concerns.

**Motion by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Renner to recommend at the March 26, 2018 City Council meeting, approval of the request from PATH, Inc. located at 201 E. Grove Street, Bloomington, requesting an LA (Limited All Types) liquor license for an event to be held at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts on April 12, 2018 which would allow the sale of all types of liquor by the glass for consumption on the premises.**

Commissioner Renner directed the Clerk to call the roll which resulted in the following:

**Ayes: Commissioners Powell and Renner.**

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

- 7. Public Hearing on the application of RoadSmart, LLC d/b/a RoadSmart, located at 1513 Morrissey Drive, requesting a GPBS liquor license which would allow the sale of packaged beer and wine only for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week.**

Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Tari Renner called a public hearing on March 13, 2018 on the application submitted by RoadSmart, LLC d/b/a RoadSmart, located at 1513 Morrissey Drive, requesting a GPBS liquor license which would allow the sale of packaged beer and wine only for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week.

Commissioner Renner asked if Brandon Newbanks, owner of RoadSmart, LLC d/b/a RoadSmart, located at 1513 Morrissey Drive has taken steps for BASSET Certification and Mr. Newbanks responded that all necessary employees have their certificates.

**Motion by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Renner to recommend this item be placed on the April 9, 2018 City Council Agenda for its consideration.**

Commissioner Renner directed the Clerk to call the roll which resulted in the following:

**Ayes: Commissioners Powell and Renner.**

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**8. Public Hearing on the application of Station Two Twenty, Inc., d/b/a Bakery and Pickle Bar located at 513 N. Main Street, requesting a RAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of liquor by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week.**

Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Tari Renner called a public hearing on March 13, 2018 on the application submitted by Station Two Twenty, Inc., d/b/a Bakery and Pickle Bar located at 513 N. Main Street, requesting a RAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of liquor by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week.

Commissioner Renner opened the Public Hearing to receive testimony on this item and asked persons wishing to make a comment to come forward and sign in. He stated, this is an application for a RAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of liquor by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, asked Ken Myszka, owner of Station Two Twenty, Inc., d/b/a Bakery and Pickle Bar located at 513 N. Main Street, to explain his business plan. Mr. Myszka explained that the Bakery and Pickle Bar is similar to his current business, Epiphany Farms, in that everything is locally grown. Mr. Myszka indicated that the Bakery and Pickle Bar is already open for business. Mr. Myszka clarified that while the location is open as a bakery currently, the approval of a RAS liquor license will allow the business to broaden its purpose.

The business will only sell liquor from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. Thursday through Saturday, with the hope of opening for more days after the business has proved itself by doing well. The location will seat about 88, including the bar. Mr. Myszka stated this restaurant will serve a variety of meals and will involve an

atmosphere similar to a speakeasy, where customers will have to have a password in order to get in; to get this password, they will need to be active on the social media pages of the business.

Commissioner Renner asked for a motion to approve this item to be presented before the City Council at the April 9, 2018 Council Meeting for consideration.

**Motion by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Renner to recommend this item be placed on the April 9, 2018 City Council Agenda for its consideration.**

Commissioner Renner directed the Clerk to call the roll which resulted in the following:

**Ayes: Commissioners Powell and Renner.**

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**9. Citation of B & M 16, Inc., d/b/a Cousin's Restaurant, located at 921 Maple Hill Road, Bloomington, IL:**

- 1. Violation of Chapter 6, Section 37(e)(12) of the Bloomington City Code for failure to pay municipal taxes;**
- 2. Violation of Chapter 6, Section 2 requiring notification and approval of a change of ownership.**

Commissioner Renner opened the Public Hearing to receive testimony on this item.

Harold Jennings, attorney, appeared with Eric Trujillo. Mr. Jennings stated that he is appearing as Mr. Trujillo's attorney and that Mr. Trujillo was appearing on his own behalf rather than on behalf of the corporation, B & M 16.

Mr. Trujillo was sworn in by the Clerk and testified.

Mr. Boyle asked Mr. Trujillo what his position is at Cousin's Restaurant.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he is the manager of the restaurant.

Mr. Boyle asked when Mr. Trujillo assumed his duties as manager.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he assumed his duties on November 13, 2017.

Mr. Boyle asked Mr. Trujillo if he had bought the corporation that owns the restaurant and has the liquor license.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he had not bought the corporation, but that he planned to purchase the corporation from Blerim Bekiri, its present owner.

Mr. Boyle asked Mr. Trujillo if he knew where Mr. Bekiri was.

Mr. Trujillo stated he did not know where Mr. Bekiri could be found.

Mr. Jennings stated that, if necessary, he would use one of his two private investigators to find Mr. Bekiri, so that Mr. Trujillo could discuss with him the purchase of the corporation, and that Mr. Trujillo would contact the City with a good faith arrangement to pay the back taxes and apply for the liquor license.

**Mr. Boyle pointed out to the Commission that no food and beverage taxes had been paid to the City since Mr. Trujillo acknowledged beginning his term as manager. He suggested that a motion be made providing that the matter be continued to the April 10, 2018 Liquor Commission hearing and that taxes becoming due prior to April 10 be paid.**

**Motion by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Renner to continue this matter to April 10, 2018 at 4:00 P.M., that additional attempts to be made to fine Mr. Beriki and recommending that taxes be paid as they become due prior to the April 10, 2018 hearing.**

**Commissioner Renner directed the Clerk to call the roll which resulted in the following:**

**Ayes: Commissioners Powell and Renner.**

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

10. **Citation of Caffe Italia, LLC, d/b/a Caffe Italia, 511 Chancellor Drive, a violation of Chapter 6, Section 37(e)(12) of the Bloomington City Code for failure to pay municipal taxes.**

Commissioner Renner opened the public hearing to receive testimony on this item. He stated that this item is for a citation of Caffe Italia, LLC, d/b/a Caffe Italia, 511 Chancellor Drive, a violation of Chapter 6, Section 37(e)(12) of the Bloomington City Code for failure to pay municipal taxes.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, stated that Frank Composto, owner of the licensee, has contacted the City since receiving the complaint and has been making payments towards the arrearage. Mr. Boyle stated that approximately \$8,000 had been paid and that approximately \$6,000 remained to be paid.

Frank Composto stated that he intended to pay the remaining amount prior to the next hearing. He explained that he has not had steady business at times and that lack of steady business is the reason he has been unable to keep up with taxes. Commissioner Renner stated that, since the taxes were paid when meals were purchased, the failure to pay taxes was essentially making a loan of the taxes collected from the public. Mr. Composto stated he did not dispute that. He stated his willingness to pay the entire amount due by the next hearing.

Mr. Boyle suggested that the Commission continue the matter to the hearing and that, given that this taxpayer has been cooperative and has not had a previous record of failing to pay, that if the amount were paid in full prior to the next hearing, the only sanction be a \$500 fine to be paid by the licensee by May 10, 2018.

**Motioned by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Renner that the matter be continued to April 10, 2018, and that if the entire amount due were paid by that date, the sanction against the licensee be a \$500.00 fine to be paid by May 10, 2018.**

**Commissioner Renner directed the Clerk to call the roll which resulted in the following:**

**Ayes: Commissioners Powell and Renner.**

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

11. **Adjournment.**

**Motion by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Renner.**

**Motion carried: Viva Voce**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

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Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk