



MINUTES
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF
THE LIQUOR COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019, 4:00 P.M.

The Liquor Commission convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

Commissioner Renner directed the Deputy City Clerk to call the roll and the following answered present:

Commissioners: Jim Jordan, Lindsey Powell, and Tari Renner.

Staff present: George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel; Chad Wamsley, Asst. Police Chief; and Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk.

Public Comment

Commissioner Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment. No public comments were received.

The following was presented:

Item 4. Consideration of and action on Minutes from the October 8, 2019 Regular Liquor Commission Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Powell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, to approve the minutes as presented.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Jordan, Powell, and Renner.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Item 5. Public Hearing on the Application of Sarahbest, Inc. d/b/a Bloomington Rosati's Pizza, requesting an RBS (Restaurant, Beer and Wine Only, and Sunday Sales) liquor license, located at 203 N. Prospect Road, #300, which would allow the sale of beer and wine by the glass for consumption on the premises seven days a week, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Renner opened the Public Hearing at 4:01 p.m.

Commissioner Renner asked if there was anyone who would like to speak for or against the application; none came forward.

Mr. Faizan Kanchwala, Franchise Owner of Bloomington Rosati's Pizza, after being sworn in, addressed the Commission. Mr. Kanchwala provided background on the establishment. He explained they sought a liquor license in order to expand their offerings of the menu to accommodate the demand of customers.

Commissioner Renner asked if Mr. Kanchwala held a liquor license in the past and if all staff would be BASSET trained. Mr. Kanchwala confirmed three employees, including himself, are BASSET trained, but that he had not previously held a liquor license in the past.

Commissioner Jordan asked if parking had been or would become an issue. Mr. Kanchwala stated the establishment has been at the current location since 2006 and never had an issue with parking.

Mr. George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, asked Mr. Kanchwala if he lived in McLean County and to confirm his position with the establishment. Mr. Kanchwala confirmed he was the owner, but he did not live in McLean County. Mr. Boyle questioned if the establishment's managers were residents of McLean County. Mr. Kanchwala confirmed both his managers, Anthony Dallevale and Brianna Garland, were local residents. Commissioner Renner explained their contact information would need to be provided. Mr. Kanchwala stated he would supply the information.

Mr. Boyle inquired about each manager's length of employment. Mr. Kanchwala stated Mr. Dallevale has been employed for thirteen months and Ms. Garland has been employed for four months. Mr. Boyle confirmed with Mr. Kanchwala that he acquired the business a year or two ago. He then asked if Mr. Kanchwala was involved in the previous corporation. Mr. Kanchwala confirmed he was not.

Commissioner Renner noted Rosati's has been a successful business in Bloomington.

Commissioner Renner closed the Public Hearing at 4:05 p.m.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Powell, to positively approve the application to the City Council contingent upon the compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Jordan, Powell, and Renner.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Item 6. Public Hearing on a Change of Ownership Application from Bloomington Chateau Partners, LLC, d/b/a Chateau Hotel and Conference Center to Hostmark Hospitality Group, Inc., d/b/a Chateau Hotel and Conference Center, located at 1621 Jumer Drive who is requesting a Class EAS (Entertainment, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) liquor license, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Renner opened the Public Hearing at 4:05 p.m.

Commissioner Renner asked if there was anyone who would like to speak for or against the application; none came forward.

Jeremy Cruthis, General Manager of the Chateau Hotel and Conference Center, after being sworn in, addressed the commission on the change of ownership. He explained the staff was excited about the new ownership and the establishment applied for the liquor license in order to continue to offer liquor services. Mr. Cruthis stated they would be doing business as Hostmark Hospitality Group.

Commissioner Renner asked if there would be any changes in operation that would affect liquor. Mr. Cruthis confirmed no changes would be made to affect liquor.

Commissioner Jordan inquired about the outstanding taxes. Mr. Boyle explained the taxes were from the previous owner and the new ownership acquired the business in foreclosure. He explained staff would continue to pursue payment of taxes from the previous owners, but that staff would like to see this business be successful and it should not keep the new owner from obtaining a liquor license. Commissioner Renner confirmed with Mr. Boyle that the previous owner owed taxes.

Commissioner Jordan confirmed with Mr. Cruthis that he was the General Manager, that the name would remain Chateau Hotel and Conference Center, and no changes will occur that would affect the liquor license. Mr. Cruthis responded affirmatively and stated they would pay their taxes on time.

Mr. Boyle stated Mr. Cruthis previously testified the doing business as (DBA) name was Hostmark Hospitality Group, but the DBA would be Chateau Hotel and Conference Center. Mr. Cruthis confirmed. Mr. Boyle inquired if the DBA was applied for with the State of Illinois. Mr. Cruthis stated he believed it was. Commissioner Renner explained the applicant would need to have completed the DBA registration before a license would be issued.

Commissioner Renner Closed the Public Hearing at 4:10 p.m.

Commissioner Powell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, to positively approve the application to the City Council contingent upon the compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Jordan, Powell, and Renner.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Item 7. Public Hearing on a Change of Ownership Application from MGN Foods, Inc., d/b/a Franzetti's Pantry Plus to 9JKDIO, LLC, d/b/a Franzetti's Pantry Plus, located at 801 E. Washington Street, who is requesting a Class PBS (Package Sales, Beer and Wine Only, and Sunday Sales) liquor license, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Renner opened the Public Hearing at 4:10 p.m.

Minesh Patel, Potential New Owner of Franzetti's Pantry Plus, after being sworn in, addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Renner explained Mr. Patel would be taking ownership of Franzetti's which has been a very responsible local establishment for many years and valued by the neighborhood. Commissioner Renner inquired if Mr. Patel would continue to pursue the same business model. Mr. Patel responded affirmatively.

Mr. Patel explained he had previous experience with owning a similar establishment from 2006 to 2015 at Lexington Finer Foods and Liquor in Lexington, IL.

Commissioner Renner inquired if Mr. Patel received any violations during that time. Mr. Patel confirmed he did not.

Commissioner Jordan asked if all staff was BASSET trained. Mr. Patel responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Powell had no questions.

Mr. Boyle asked if there would be any changes to the business model. Mr. Patel confirmed there would not.

Commissioner Renner closed the Public Hearing at 4:13 p.m.

Commissioner Powell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, to positively approve the application to the City Council contingent upon the compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Jordan, Powell, and Renner.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Item 8. Public Hearing on a Change of Ownership Application from ERJ Dining IV, LLC, d/b/a Chili's Grill and Bar to Brinker Restaurant Corporation, d/b/a Chili's Grill and Bar, located at 2107 N. Veterans Parkway, who is requesting a Class RAS (Restaurant, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) liquor license, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Renner opened the Public Hearing at 4:13 p.m.

Commissioner Renner asked if there was anyone who would like to speak for or against the application; none came forward.

Ken Martin, General Manager of Chili's Grill and Bar, after being sworn in, addressed the Commission. He explained the establishment would return to corporate ownership from the current franchised ownership.

Commissioner Renner inquired if there would be any changes to the establishment and if all employees were BASSET trained. Mr. Martin stated there would be no changes and that all staff was BASSET trained.

Commissioners Jordan and Powell had no questions.

Mr. Boyle asked about Mr. Martin's experience. Mr. Martin explained he has been an employee of Chili's for 22 years, a manager for 15 years, and the General Manager for approximately two years. Mr. Boyle asked Mr. Martin if he was a resident of McLean County. Mr. Martin responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Renner closed the Public Hearing at 4:15 p.m.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Powell, to positively approve the application to the City Council contingent upon the compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Jordan, Powell, and Renner.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Item 9. Consideration and action on the notification of Change of Ownership from Grand Café, LLC, dba Grand Cafe, located at 2205 E. Oakland Ave, Ste A1 and A2, who currently holds a Class RBS (Restaurant, Beer and Wine Only, and Sunday Sales) liquor license, which allows the sale of beer and wine only by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Renner and Mr. Boyle discussed the action required and the difference between this item and a Public Hearing. Mr. Boyle explained the Commission would need to approve or disapprove the change in ownership and that under Chapter 6 Section 2 of the City Code, a Change of Ownership can be done with or without a Public Hearing. Mr. Boyle continued, stating the LLC had three equal owners and one owner transferred his ownership equally to Mr. and Mrs. Mapugay. Ms. Amanda Mohan, Deputy Clerk, confirmed with Commissioner Renner that he did not wish to open this item as a Public Hearing.

Commissioner Renner asked if there was anyone who would like to speak for or against the application; none came forward.

Jimmy Mapugay, Owner of Grand Café, addressed the Commission. He explained that they intend to absorb the partner who was an initial investor. Mr. Mapugay stated this partner's interest in the business was repaid fully by Mr. and Mrs. Mapugay and the partner has not been involved in the establishment.

Commissioner Renner asked if there would be any significant changes to the business. Mr. Mapugay confirmed operations would remain the same.

Commissioner Jordan confirmed with Mr. Mapugay that he and his wife would be the sole owners. Mr. Mapugay responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Jordan asked Mr. Boyle if there were any pending issues with Grand Café. Mr. Boyle explained there was a tax issue that has since been resolved. He also mentioned there were court cases and a judgement related to the old building, but that it is staff's opinion that those should not hold up the transfer of ownership.

Commissioner Powell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, to positively approve the application to the City Council contingent upon the compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Jordan, Powell, and Renner.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

Commissioner Powell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amanda Mohan", written over a horizontal line.

Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk