



**MINUTES  
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF  
THE LIQUOR COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020, 4:00 P.M.**

The Liquor Commission convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

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

Present: Commissioners Lindsey Powell and Tari Renner

Absent: Commissioner Jim Jordan

Staff present: George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel; Timothy McCoy, 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 January 14, 2020 Regular Liquor Commission Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

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

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

**Ayes: Commissioners Powell and Renner.**

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

The following was presented:

Item 5. Public Hearing and action on the Application of Richard's Services, Inc., d/b/a Parkview Inn, located at 1003 S. Morris Ave, requesting to redefine their approved area for consumption with a permanent extension of premise to allow an Outdoor Service or Consumption Area, 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 against the application; none came forward.

Rick McCormick, Owner, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. He stated the outside seating area was built for patrons to enjoy food and relax with an adult beverage. He also reminded the Commission the establishment was built on Route 66.

Commissioner Renner expressed concern with the requested late hours of operation for the outdoor service area.

Mr. McCormick stated the establishment's liquor license permitted operations until 1:00 a.m. on the weekdays and 2:00 a.m. on the weekends, but they rarely stayed open that late.

Commissioner Powell questioned if food and alcohol would be served until 2:00 a.m.

Mr. McCormick informed the Commission food service was available until 10:00 p.m. with the bar potentially open until 2:00 p.m.

Mr. George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, asked if the outdoor consumption area could close at midnight for the first year as a trial to ensure it did not disturb the surrounding neighborhood as it was unusual for the City to allow beer gardens to stay open until 2:00 a.m.

Mr. McCormick was open to the condition, but expressed the establishment did not have a history of problems in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Powell questioned if live music would be provided.

Mr. McCormick mentioned that they had considered jazz band performances for dinner service.

Commissioner Renner asked if there was anyone who would like to speak in favor of the application. He presented an email the City Clerk Department received from a local resident, Justin Boyd, in favor of the applicant's request for an Outdoor Service or Consumption Area. (Exhibit A)

Surena Fish, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. She spoke in favor of the request. She discussed having issues with an establishment on the opposite end of Miller Park, but stated there had never been any problems with Parkview Inn. Ms. Fish noted that she has lived near the establishment for over 20 years and mentioned the owner was always very welcoming and helpful. She informed the Commission that, to her knowledge, unlike the establishment on the other side of Miller Park, Parkview Inn had not received police calls for service. Ms. Fish stated that she represented a variety of neighbors and groups who were all very excited to have the establishment open again.

Asst. Police Chief McCoy, after being sworn in, addressed the Commission. He stated in the 26 years he had been with the Bloomington Police Department; he did not recall a call for service being received for Parkview Inn outside of the fire that destroyed the building years back.

Michael Butts, Legal Representation for Parkview Inn, after being sworn in, addressed the Commission. He explained that the patio did not have sufficient space to hold a live band and noted that the small speakers used for music would not carry to the surrounding area. Mr. Butts expressed that his client wished to operate the small outdoor area with the same hours allowed for the restaurant. He noted Mr. McCormick continued to invest in the neighborhood while other establishments had left and pointed out that the restaurant had become a staple in the community.

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

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

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

**Ayes: Commissioners Powell and Renner.**

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

The following was presented:

Item 6. Public Hearing and action on the Application of Personal Assistance Telephone Help, Inc. d/b/a PATH, requesting a Class LA (Limited, All Types of Alcohol) liquor license, for their 12th Annual Chef's for PATH Event at the BCPA, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

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

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

Karen Zangerle, Executive Director of PATH, after being sworn in, addressed the Commission. She explained PATH hosts an annual fundraiser event where top area chefs participate in a cooking competition. She stated that PATH sought a liquor license for the event hours of approximately 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. where alcohol would be served by BASSET certified volunteers. Ms. Zangerle explained the event could not operate without the continued support and assistance from nearly 60 volunteers. She stated the event would be an adult only event for around 250 guests and explained they have not had issues in the past.

Commissioner Renner asked if there were any significant changes in operation compared to previous events.

Ms. Zangerle responded there were no significant changes.

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

**Commissioner Powell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Renner, to positively recommend the application for a Class LA (Limited, All Types of Alcohol) liquor license to the City Council.**

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

**Ayes: Commissioners Powell and Renner.**

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

The following was presented:

Item 7. Public Hearing and action on the Application of Morrissey Firehouse Pizza, LLC, d/b/a Firehouse Pizza, to be located at 1601 Morrissey Drive, Unit B, 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 4:14 p.m.

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

Chad Young, Owner, after being sworn in, addressed the Commission. He stated Firehouse Pizza would be a 75-seat restaurant with an open kitchen concept. Mr. Young explained the restaurant would be an expansion from Normal location.

Commissioner Powell asked for clarification of the hours of operation.

Mr. Young stated they were still finalizing the hours of operation, but that he did not believe the establishment would stay open past midnight.

Commissioner Renner reminded him that the Liquor Commission would have to approve an amendment to the hours of operation should they exceed the approval at the meeting.

Mr. Boyle confirmed that if the Commission placed specific hours of operation as a condition on the license, the Liquor Commission would have to approve any changes in hours. He further explained if the condition was not placed, the applicant would be able to change the hours as desired. He recommended the Commission choose later hours as the establishment would always be able to close early if desired.

Commissioner Renner asked if the Normal location had had any liquor violations.

Mr. Young stated that they had received one violation in the past when a server didn't read an ID properly.

Commissioner Renner questioned if all service staff were BASSET certified.

Mr. Young responded affirmatively and expressed interest in the flexibility to be open later than originally applied for.

Commissioner Renner closed the Public Hearing at 4:18 p.m.

**Commissioner Powell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Renner, to positively approve the application to the City Council with the condition the establishment close by 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and close by 2:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday; and 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 Powell and Renner.**

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

The following was presented:

Item 8. Second appearance on Hurley Consolidated Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Drifters, located at 612 N. Main Street, on a Complaint and Citation alleging violation of Chapter 6, Section 37(e)(12) of the Bloomington City Code for failure to pay City of Bloomington Food and Beverage taxes, as requested by the Legal Department.

Mr. Boyle explained the complaint against the licensee was for non-filed food and beverages taxes from August 2019 until present. He stated all fees and fines had been settled with a total of \$3,570.63 in taxes, interest and penalties paid in addition to a \$600 fine.

### **Old Business**

The following was discussed:

Item A. Discussion on liquor license renewal deadlines as specified by Commissioner Renner at the January 14, 2020 Liquor Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Renner explained the 30-day deadline was consistent with surrounding communities of similar size and noted that, in most cases, the fines are more severe.

Mr. Boyle confirmed and explained the license renewal deadlines utilized by Normal and noted their penalty structure was more severe than Bloomington's structure.

Commissioner Renner stated that the Liquor Commission approved the adjusted deadlines in April 2019 which was later passed by the City Council in July 2019. He also noted that with the City's small Clerk's office and 176 liquor licenses, the adopted structure had shown to be much more efficient. He asked Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, to address the Commission.

Mrs. Yocum reminded the Commission that the City Clerk Department manages 24 license types many of which include a variety of classifications and that the total of the 176 licenses was just for liquor. She stated that it's very burdensome for a small office and that the additional processing time has proven to be beneficial. She pointed out the Department had looked to align itself with neighboring cities of similar size and noted that Normal's penalty Ordinance dated back to 2010.

Commissioner Renner pointed out that liquor licenses are still valid through December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year and asked Mrs. Yocum to provide additional information.

Mrs. Yocum clarified that the new deadlines impacted due dates for renewal applications only and confirmed that the new deadlines did not impact existing license or their expiration dates. She explained that 2020 license renewal applications and payments were now due 30 days prior to existing license expiring and new license going into effect (January 1<sup>st</sup>). She continued that the additional time allowed the department adequate review and time to issue license so they were received by January 1<sup>st</sup>. She stated that if a licensee missed the 30 deadline, they were assessed a 10% late penalty based on their license fee and pointed out that surrounding municipalities had much more strict guidelines including termination of a liquor license.

Mr. Boyle stated that the amount of time spent on review for a license renewal could vary, but that the time included was for review, processing and issuance of a new license. He provided an example that if a minimum of ten minutes was spent on each liquor license renewal, it would equal roughly 30 hours of staff time. He also noted that some license renewals take a lot more time as multiple departments are involved and believed that the entire City benefitted from license renewals being submitted prior to December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mrs. Yocum explained that she continues to evaluate the department for process procedure improvements and only looked to provide a better service to the community and to the licensees, while ensuring public safety. She also noted that all the license types managed by the City Clerk Department were being evaluated in the same manner.

Commissioner Renner inquired if notices had been sent out.

Mrs. Yocum responded affirmatively and reminded the Commission and the public that the changes also included the elimination of quarterly billing for liquor license holders. She also reiterated the timeline approving the changes previously stated by Commissioner Renner.

## **New Business**


### **Adjournment**

**Commissioner Powell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Renner, to adjourn.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Mohan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk