



MINUTES
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF
THE LIQUOR COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020, 4:00 P.M.

This meeting was conducted under Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order 2020-07, Section 6 implemented in response to COVID-19, which suspended in-person attendance under the Open Meeting Act, 5 ILCS 120.

The Liquor Commission convened in Regular Session virtually via Zoom conferencing with Commissioner Tari Renner and Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, in-person in City Hall’s Council Chambers and virtually via Zoom conferencing at 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Tari Renner.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tari Renner	Commissioner	Present	
Jim Jordan	Commissioner	Remote	
Lindsey Powell	Commissioner	Remote	

Staff Advisors

Staff Present	Title	Status	Arrived
Leslie Yocum	City Clerk	Present	
George Boyle	Asst. Corporation Counsel	Remote	

Public Comment

Commissioner Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment. Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, informed the Commission no one had registered for public comment nor submitted public comment via email.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled by Council from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

Commissioner Powell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented.

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

AYES: Jordan, Powell, Renner

Motion carried.

Item 4A. Consideration and action to approve Minutes from the September 8, 2020 Regular Liquor Commission Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Item 4B. Consideration and action to approve Minutes from the September 10, 2020 Special Liquor Commission Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5A. Public Hearing and action on the request from City of Bloomington for a Class EAS (Entertainment, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) liquor license to operate at the location commonly referred to as Grossinger Motors Arena, located at 101 S. Madison St., as submitted to the City Clerk Department.

The following Commissioners were present for the Public Hearing: Jordan, Powell, and Renner.

Commissioner Renner opened the Public Hearing at 4:02 p.m.

Commissioner Renner asked the Clerk if anyone was present to represent the item. Mrs. Yocum explained that City of Bloomington Employees Jim Mack, Bloomington Center for Performing Arts and Arena Manager, and Eric Veal, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts (“PARKS”), were present.

Mr. Mack, after being sworn in, addressed the Commission. He explained that with VenuWorks, the previous management company, no longer under contract, the management of the Arena was brought in-house, and the PARKS Department would manage the space. He stated that VenuWorks previously held a liquor license for all activities at the Arena. Mr. Mack concluded that the PARKS Department applied for the same license as the previous management company.

Commissioner Renner asked if there was any deviation from the previous liquor license. Mr. Mack confirmed the license was the same. He explained that staff actively sought an outside caterer but that company would not hold a liquor license.

Commissioner Jordan did not express concerns with the application.

Commissioner Powell asked if all employees would be BASSET Certified. Mr. Mack confirmed.

Commissioner Renner asked if anyone had registered to speak for or against the application. Mrs. Yocum responded that no one registered to speak live nor submitted emailed public comment.

Commissioner Renner closed the Public Hearing at 4:04 p.m.

Commissioner Jordan motioned, seconded by Commissioner Powell, to positively recommend the application to City Council contingent upon compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.

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

AYES: Jordan, Powell, Renner

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5B. Public Hearing on a Complaint and Citation issued to Beth Roley, d/b/a A & P Tap, located at 721 W Chestnut St., as requested by the Legal Department.

Commissioner Renner asked George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, for an update on the item.

Mr. Boyle explained that this item was settled without a need for a hearing.

Commissioner Renner asked the total amount the item was settled for. Mr. Boyle responded that the licensee admitted they had not complied with the Illinois Department of Public Health's Emergency Rules. He concluded that the business was found to be non-compliant multiple times and that, as a result, the licensee agreed to pay a fine of \$400, which was paid in full before the meeting.

The following item was presented:

Item 5C. Public Hearing on a Complaint and Citation issued to BAYMT, Inc., d/b/a Western Tap, located at 1301 N. Western Ave., as requested by the Legal Department.

Commissioner Renner asked George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, for an update on the item.

Mr. Boyle explained that the licensee was found non-compliant with the Illinois Department of Public Health's Emergency Rules on September 11th and September 12th. He stated the licensee as found in compliance two times after that weekend. He concluded that the licensee agreed to pay a fine of \$400 for the previous non-compliance, which was paid in full before the meeting.

The following item was presented:

Item 5D. Public Hearing on a Complaint and Citation issued to Mickey's Kitchen, Inc. d/b/a Mickey's Kitchen, located at 1709 S. Veterans Parkway, Suite A, as requested by the Legal Department.

Commissioner Renner asked George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, for an update on the item.

Mr. Boyle explained that Mr. Megdi Aliu, Owner of Mickey's Kitchen, Inc., should be in attendance. Mrs. Yocum responded that Mr. Aliu was not in attendance.

Mr. Boyle asked Mrs. Yocum if the liquor and video gaming licenses were surrendered. Mrs. Yocum responded to her knowledge, the licensee had not surrendered the licenses.

Mr. Boyle stated the situation was unusual in that it was a two-part complaint. He explained that the complaint was filed and served to the establishment Friday, October 9, 2020, and the owner, who had knowledge of the complaint, also received a copy before the meeting. Mr. Boyle explained that the complaint included failure to pay food and beverage taxes from November 2019 through August 2020. He went on to explain that the second complaint alleged that the licensee allowed an unlicensed business sell alcohol on their premises. Mr. Boyle stated that documents could be requested for consideration as it related to the complaint for the Liquor Commission hearing. He explained the complaint included a request for the establishment's income statements for the past two years, and a lease agreement, contract or other agreement between the licensee and BC Wings, Inc., the business was operating on the licensee's premises.

Mr. Boyle informed the Commission that staff received communication from Craig Wilson, General Manager, stating that he resigned as of Saturday, October 10, 2020 and that he understood the business would remain closed. Mr. Boyle continued, stating that according to a communication with Mr. Aliu, he intended to surrender the liquor and video gaming licenses. Mr. Boyle concluded that staff required time to review the requested documents and then requested to continue the item to the November 10, 2020 Liquor Commission meeting.

Commissioner Jordan asked if the licensee should surrender their licenses until the matters were cleared up. Mr. Boyle responded that, per the correspondence with the General Manager, the licenses would be surrendered; however, if the licenses are not and the establishment continued to operate, staff would seek the revocation of their licenses.

Commissioner Powell motioned, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, to continue the item to the November 10, 2020 Regular Liquor Commission Meeting.

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

AYES: Jordan, Powell, Renner

Motion carried.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment

Commissioner Jordan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Powell, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.



Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk