

MINUTES OF THE BLOOMINGTON
LIQUOR COMMISSION

May 8, 2012

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Richard Buchanan called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the request of Zhalih Travis and Jason McCullough to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at Davis Lodge for their wedding reception on June 16, 2012. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Richard Buchanan and Marabeth Clapp; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel; Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief; and Tracey Covert, City Clerk, and Thomas Breitbarth, requester's representative.

Public Comment: Commissioner Buchanan opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting. No one came forward to address the Commission.

Commissioner Buchanan opened the liquor hearing and requested that Mr. Breitbarth, requester's representative, address the Commission regarding this request. Thomas Breitbarth addressed the Commission. He informed them that Zhalih Travis, the bride, was currently attending Graduate School in Tennessee. The wedding reception was scheduled for Saturday, June 16, 2012. Alcohol service, (beer and wine only) would be provided for the 120 wedding guests. She had spoken KPTS, Inc., d/b/a Six Strings located at 525 N. Center St. Avanti's Restaurant located at 3302 E. Empire, would provide the food service. This would be an evening reception with dinner. The time line for the reception was from 4:00 until 11:00 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Clapp, seconded by Commissioner Buchanan that the request of Zhalih Travis and Jason McCullough to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at Davis Lodge for their wedding reception on June 16, 2012 be approved.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Buchanan noted that Six Strings will also be required to obtain a one (1) day liquor license from McLean County. Tracey Covert, City Clerk, volunteered to walk Mr. Breitbarth through the process.

Commissioner Buchanan informed Mr. Breitbarth that this item would appear on the May 29, 2012 City Council Consent Agenda. He encouraged him to attend this meeting.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:10 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Richard Buchanan called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the request of Famous Inc., d/b/a Famous Wines & Spirits, located at 1404 E. Empire, requesting a PAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of packaged alcohol for consumption off the premises seven (7) days week. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Richard Buchanan and Marabeth Clapp; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation

Counsel, Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief, and Tracey Covert, City Clerk; and Vijaykomar “Visam” Patel, owner, and Sam Patel, Interim Store Manager, Applicant representatives.

Commissioner Buchanan opened the liquor hearing and requested that the Applicant explain this request. He noted that this application involved a change of ownership. Sam Patel, Interim Store Manager and Applicant representative, addressed the Commission. Commissioner Buchanan questioned if Mr. Patel was speaking on behalf of Vijaykomar Patel. Mr. Patel responded affirmatively. Vijaykomar Patel currently owned gas stations and hotels. Famous was a growing business which Mr. Patel wanted to add to his business holdings.

Commissioner Buchanan noted that Famous’ ownership would be a corporation. Mr. Patel noted that Vijaykomar Patel was the sole stockholder.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, noted that the Emergency Call-in Listing listed Mr. Harry Bhalavar. Mr. Patel noted that Mr. Bhalavar had recently been involved in an automobile accident. He was recovering from injuries he sustained. Mr. Bhalavar would move to the City in the next three to four (3 - 4) weeks. He added the Bruce Williams, Asst. Store Manager, resided in the City. Mr. Williams oversaw the store’s operations. Mr. Boyle recommended that Mr. Williams be added to the Emergency Call-in Listing.

Commissioner Clapp questioned if this would be a new corporation for Mr. Patel. She also questioned Mr. Patel’s other businesses. Mr. Patel noted that the other businesses were located in Galesburg and Peoria. Vijaykomar Patel addressed the Commission. He owned gas stations and worked at his packaged liquor store in Galesburg. Commissioner Clapp questioned if there had been any violations. Mr. Patel responded negatively.

Commissioner Clapp questioned Famous’ staff size. Mr. Patel responded that there were five (5) employees.

Commissioner Clapp questioned if alcohol sales training was offered. Mr. Patel noted that on line training was available. He added that a number of the staff members have years of experience in liquor sales. Training had been completed in the past.

Commissioner Buchanan noted the floor plan. He questioned if there were any planned changes to the building. Mr. Patel responded negatively.

Commissioner Buchanan opened the hearing to public comment. No one came forward to address the Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Buchanan, seconded by Commissioner Clapp that the application of Famous Inc., d/b/a Famous Wine & Spirits, located at 1404 E. Empire, requesting a PAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of packaged alcohol for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week be approved.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Buchanan stated that this Application would appear on the June 11, 2012 City Council Consent Agenda. He encouraged them to attend.

Mr. Patel noted that the current liquor license would expire on June 30, 2012.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:22 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Richard Buchanan called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the request of Eastland Suites - Bloomington LLC, d/b/a Eastland Suites located at 1801 Eastland Dr., requesting an RAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days week. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Richard Buchanan and Marabeth Clapp; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief, and Tracey Covert, City Clerk.

Commissioner Buchanan opened the liquor hearing and noted that the Applicant was not present. He noted that this application involved a change of ownership. There were no issues with this application. The City had received a letter from David Fedor, the Snyder Companies' Registered Agent dated February 3, 2012 informing the City of this change. There would be no changes to the daily operations at Eastland Suites. Diane Winters was no longer associated with Snyder Properties Trust.

The Applicant had requested that this application appear on the Council's May 29, 2012 meeting due to the timing needed for the state liquor license.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, noted that this application was for a change of ownership.

Motion by Commissioner Clapp, seconded by Commissioner Buchanan that the application of Eastland Suites - Bloomington, LLC d/b/a Eastland Suites located at 1801 Eastland Dr., requesting an 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 be approved.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Buchanan stated that this Application would appear on the May 29, 2012 City Council Consent Agenda.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Richard Buchanan called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the notification by Fiesta Ranchera of Bloomington, Inc., d/b/a Fiesta Ranchera Mexican Restaurant, located at 2103 N. Veterans Pkwy., currently holding an 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. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Richard Buchanan and Marabeth Clapp; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief, and Tracey Covert, City Clerk; and Cynthia Canchola, License holder representative.

Commissioner Buchanan opened the liquor hearing and noted that this request involved a change of corporate stockholder. The Liquor Control Commission requires that a License holder inform the municipality and obtain a letter from same stating that the municipality had been informed and the license remains in force.

Commissioner Buchanan added that the City Code also required a License holder to inform the City of a change in corporate stockholders.

Cynthia Canchola, License holder representative, addressed the Commission. She informed them that she was Nicolas Canchola's daughter. She referred the Commission to letter provided by the Johnson Law Office. Juan Leon had transferred his stock to Juan Canchola. In addition, Filigonia Canchola, her uncle, had transferred his interest to Nicolas Canchola, her father.

Motion by Commissioner Clapp, seconded by Commissioner Buchanan to accept the change of corporate stockholders for Fiesta Ranchera of Bloomington, Inc., d/b/a Fiesta Ranchera Mexican Restaurant, located at 2103 N. Veterans Pkwy., located at 2103 N. Veterans Pkwy., currently holding an RAS liquor license; said license remains in force.

Motion carried.

Tracey Covert, City Clerk, informed the Commission that a letter had been provided to the Liquor Control Commission.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:32 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Richard Buchanan called the initial Liquor Violation Hearing to order for Parke Hotel & Conference Center, LLC, d/b/a Parke Hotel & Conference Center, located at 1413 Leslie Dr./1414 N. Towanda Barnes Rd. (CHECK ADDRESS) currently holding an 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. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Richard Buchanan and Marabeth Clapp; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief, and Tracey Covert, City Clerk; and Julie Irvin, License holder representative.

Commissioner Buchanan opened the liquor violation hearing and noted that this was the initial hearing.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, addressed the Commission. He stated that the violation occurred during the Police Department's monthly compliance check. The Parke Hotel & Conference Center did not pass same. The Complaint was served upon the license holder. He noted that a foreclosure had been filed by Busey Bank on March 5, 2012. Busey Bank became the mortgagee on March 8, 2012. Midas Hospitality was a management group which managed the property. This company has served in this role since April 2011. Midas had been retained by the Park Hotel & Conference Center, LLC. Midas has now been retained by Busey Bank. He had spoken with the corporation counsel for Busey Bank and Midas Hospitality. He believed that a liquor application would be filed with the City Clerk's Office in the next few days. Parke

Hotel & Conference Center, LLC was still the valid license holder even though it was not connected to the day to day operations of the hotel. He recommended that the violation hearing be continued.

Commissioner Buchanan questioned the status of the Parke's state liquor license. Mr. Boyle noted that an entity would apply for the City liquor license. A local license was needed to apply for a state liquor license.

Julie Irvin, License holder representative, addressed the Commission. Midas had taken steps to insure that another violation would not occur. Hotel staff would participate in STEPS, (Safety Training to Encourage Profitable Service), training again. All customers would be carded and receive a stamp.

Commissioner Buchanan noted that Mr. Boyle had prepared all of the violation paperwork.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:39 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Richard Buchanan called the initial Liquor Violation Hearing to order for Schnucks Markets, Inc., d/b/a Schnuck's, located at 1701 E. Empire, currently holding a PAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of packaged alcohol for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Richard Buchanan and Marabeth Clapp; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief, and Tracey Covert, City Clerk.

Commissioner Buchanan opened the liquor violation hearing and noted that this was the initial hearing.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, addressed the Commission. He noted that the violation occurred during the Police Department's monthly compliance check. Schnuck's did not pass same. The Complaint was served upon the license holder. This was the license holder's first violation. The violation had been settled with the payment of a \$600 fine.

Commissioner Buchanan noted that Mr. Boyle had prepared all of the violation paperwork.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:40 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Richard Buchanan called the initial Liquor Violation Hearing to order for Thornton's, Inc., d/b/a Thornton's #360, located at 906 N. Main St., currently holding a GPBS liquor license which allows the sale of packaged beer and wine only for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Richard Buchanan and Marabeth Clapp; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief, and Tracey Covert, City Clerk.

Commissioner Buchanan opened the liquor violation hearing and noted that this was the initial hearing.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, addressed the Commission. He noted that the violation occurred during the Police Department's monthly compliance check. Thornton's did not pass same. The Complaint was served upon the license holder. This was the license holder's first violation in over three (3) years. The violation had been settled with the payment of a \$600 fine.

Commissioner Buchanan noted that Mr. Boyle had prepared all of the violation paperwork.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:41 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Richard Buchanan called the initial Liquor Violation Hearing to order for Tjolo's, Corp., d/b/a Main Street Grill, located at 517 N. Main St., currently holding an 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. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Richard Buchanan and Marabeth Clapp; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief, and Tracey Covert, City Clerk.

Commissioner Buchanan opened the liquor violation hearing and noted that this was the initial hearing. He added that this item would appear on the Commission's June 12, 2012 meeting agenda.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, addressed the Commission. He noted that the violation occurred during the Police Department's monthly compliance check. Main St. did not pass same. The Complaint was served upon the license holder. He recommended that the Commission set a separate hearing date. He suggested Tuesday, July 17, 2012. This hearing would not be at the Commission's regular meeting time.

Commissioner Clapp stated that she would not be available during the months of July and August 2012.

Commissioner Buchanan noted that Mr. Boyle had prepared all of the violation paperwork.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:42 p.m.

Commissioner Buchanan addressed the application of Shreeji 12 Inc., d/b/a Bloomington Citgo Quick Mart, located at 1901 W. Market St., 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. He and Commissioner Tompkins met with Rakeshkumer Patel, the owner/Applicant. After the meeting, both Commissioners were satisfied that the owner understood his responsibilities and the Commissioners were comfortable that they understood the owner. The Bloomington Citgo's staff had sufficient experience to operate and administer this business. He would send a follow up report via e-mail to the City Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Buchanan questioned the Police Department's compliance checks. Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief, addressed the Commission. The goal was to conduct compliance checks on a monthly basis.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully,

Tracey Covert, CRM, CMC, RMC
City Clerk