

MINUTES OF THE BLOOMINGTON
LIQUOR COMMISSION

January 10, 2012

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Stephen Stockton called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the request of Brittany Spear and Eric Cline to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their November 3, 2012 wedding union reception to be held at Miller Park Pavilion. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Steve Stockton, Richard Buchanan, Marabeth Clapp, Steve Petersen, and Geoffrey Tompkins; Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief and Tracey Covert, City Clerk, and Brittany Spear and Eric Cline, request representatives.

Commissioner Stockton opened the liquor hearing and requested that Eric Cline, request representative, address this request. Eric Cline, ADDRESS, addressed the Commission on behalf of his in-laws. He noted that they had provided the City with a letter. The request was for his wedding reception. The reception and alcohol service would cease at 10:00 p.m. The building had to be vacated by 11:00 p.m.

Mr. Cline noted that there would be 200 invited guests. It was anticipated that 175 of them would attend. Ninety percent (90%) of the wedding guests would be over twenty-one (21) years of age. The plan was for the caterer to supply a limited number of drinks per guest, (zero to three). He noted that there was a possibility that the wedding might be held earlier in the day with a luncheon reception.

Commissioner Stockton expressed support for this request. In November, the park would be relatively empty. The fall would be an appropriate time of year for this type of event.

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner Buchanan to recommend the suspension of City ordinance for a wedding reception being held at Miller Park Pavilion on November 3, 2012.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Stockton informed Mr. Cline that this item would appear on the February 13, 2012 City Council Consent Agenda. He encouraged them to attend this meeting.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:05 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Stephen Stockton called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the notification by C.J. Catering, Inc., d/b/a C.J.'s Restaurant, located at 2901 E. Empire 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, regarding a change of stockholder. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Stephen Stockton, Richard Buchanan,

Marabeth Clapp, Steve Petersen, and Geoffrey Tompkins; Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief and Tracey Covert, City Clerk.

Commissioner Stockton noted that this request involved a change of stockholder. He added that no one was present to represent the license holder.

Tracey Covert, City Clerk, addressed the Commission. She had been contacted by David Wochner, attorney for C.J. Catering, Inc. Christopher Stolfa established a trust prior to his death. He had appointed Peter Skiouris as Trustee. Mr. Skiouris was the sole corporate director. Dixie Stolfa, widow, acts as corporate President and Secretary and Mr. Skiouris acts as Treasurer.

Ms. Covert informed the Commission that the state's 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 Stockton added that City Code also required a License holder to inform the City of a change in corporate stockholders.

Commissioner Buchanan questioned the annual license renewal process. Ms. Covert confirmed that Mr. Wochner had filed the required paperwork.

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner Clapp to accept the change in corporate stockholders for C.J.'s Catering, Inc., d/b/a C. J. Restaurant, located at 2901 E. Empire, currently holding an RAS liquor license; said license remains in force.

Motion carried.

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

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:09 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Stephen Stockton called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the notification by RTN, Inc., d/b/a Ride the Nine, located at 503 N. Prospect, Ste. 304, currently holding a TAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week, regarding a change of stockholder. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Stephen Stockton, Richard Buchanan, Marabeth Clapp, Steve Petersen, and Geoffrey Tompkins; Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief and Tracey Covert, City Clerk; and T. Scott Tuggle and Glenn Corkfill, owner/operators and License holders.

Commissioner Stockton noted that this request involved a change of stockholder. He requested that the license holder address the Commission.

Scott Tuggle, owner/operator and License holder, addressed the Commission. He informed the Commission that David Carrington had retired. He and Glenn Corkfill have purchased Mr. Carrington's shares in the business.

Tracey Covert, City Clerk, informed the Commission that the state's 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 Stockton added that City Code also required a License holder to inform the City of a change in corporate stockholders.

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner Buchanan to accept the change in corporate stockholders for RTN, Inc., d/b/a Ride the Nine, located at 503 N. Prospect, Suite 304, currently holding a TAS liquor license; said license remains in force.

Motion carried.

Tracey Covert, City Clerk, informed the Commission that a letter must be sent to the Liquor Control Commission.

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

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Stephen Stockton called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the application of Shri Sharda, LLC, d/b/a Main Street Convenient Mart located at 1919 S. Main St., 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. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Stephen Stockton, Richard Buchanan, Marabeth Clapp, Steve Petersen, and Geoffrey Tompkins; Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief and Tracey Covert, City Clerk; and Happy Singh, owner/operator, current License holder and Applicant representative.

Commissioner Stockton opened the liquor hearing and requested that the Applicant address the Commission. He added that this application involved a change of ownership. Currently, Major Convenient Mart, Inc., d/b/a Main Street Convenient Mart held a PAS liquor license at this location. Happy Singh, owner/operator, current License holder and Applicant representative, addressed the Commission. He informed the Commission that he would remain as the store's manager. He had owned and operated this store for nine (9) years. There would be new corporate ownership. This was the only change. He reminded the Commission that fuel tanks and pumps had been removed at this location.

Commissioner Petersen questioned if Mr. Singh planned to mentor/train his replacement. Mr. Singh responded affirmatively.

Motion by Commissioner Buchanan, seconded by Commissioner Petersen that the application of Shri Sandra, LLC, d/b/a Main Street Convenient Mart located at 1919 S. Main St., 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 Stockton informed the Applicant that this item would appear on the February 13, 2012 City Council Consent Agenda. He encouraged her to attend this meeting.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:15 p.m.

The Bloomington Liquor Commissioner Stephen Stockton called the Liquor Hearing to order to hear the application of RBS Fuels, Inc., d/b/a RSB Fuels, located at 1901 W. Market St., requesting a GBPS liquor license which allows the sale of packaged beer and wine for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week. Present at the hearing were Liquor Commissioners Stephen Stockton, Richard Buchanan, Marabeth Clapp, Steve Petersen, and Geoffrey Tompkins; Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief and Tracey Covert, City Clerk; and Karen Anderson, RBS Fuels' Vice President of Operations and Applicant representative.

Commissioner Stockton opened the liquor hearing and requested that the Applicant address the Commission. He added that this application involved a change of ownership. Currently, Mahitha, Inc., d/b/a Food Energy Mart held a GPBS liquor license at this location. Karen Anderson, RBS Fuels' Vice President of Operations and Applicant representative, addressed the Commission. RBS Fuels planned to lease the building. Minor remodeling was planned, (new cabinets, store layout, etc.). In addition, the wine inventory would be reduced. RBS Fuels would not be purchasing the existing store's inventory. She currently oversaw seven (7) stores and had over twenty (20) years of experience.

Commissioner Stockton questioned if there had been any liquor violations. Ms. Anderson responded negatively. RBS Fuels utilized scanners for identification in order to complete a liquor sale. She noted that a video security system would be installed at this location. RBS Fuels has standardized procedures. Employees must sign a zero tolerance contract regarding liquor violations. Each employee is given three to four (3 - 4) days, (eight hour shifts) of hands on training. She added that half of this time was devoted to register sales.

Commissioner Buchanan informed the Commission that he had visited the Food Energy Mart. He noted the volume of wine. He added that there was a row of shelves which were empty. Ms. Anderson informed the Commission that there would be two (2) long aisles stock with liquor inventory. A food island would be installed near the fountain area. The food island would offer hot dogs, nachos, etc. She noted that when the store opened she would spend a great deal of her time at this store. She reminded the Commission that she had six (6) other stores to supervise.

Commissioner Buchanan noted the volume of single serve items. Ms. Anderson believed that RBS Fuels planned to assume ownership on February 1, 2012. The goal was to focus sales on twenty-four (24) packs of beer. She did not want individuals loitering at the store.

Commissioner Buchanan noted the Central Illinois winds. He stated that there was litter on the property. Ms. Anderson noted that litter can occur anywhere. Picking up litter would be part of

the store's staff's daily routine. Litter was unattractive. She believed that the City would see an improvement at this property.

Commissioner Petersen questioned if the Applicant was familiar with the liquor stock space limitation. Commissioner Buchanan cited the fifteen percent (15%) rule, (See Chapter 6. Alcoholic Beverages, Section 1. Definitions). He added that the current license holder was in compliance. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the store's square footage must offer items other than alcohol.

Commissioner Petersen noted RBS Fuels plan to install surveillance cameras. Ms. Anderson responded affirmatively for the store's interior.

Motion by Commissioner Clapp, seconded by Commissioner Tompkins that the application of RBS Fuels, Inc., d/b/a RBS Fuels located at 1901 W. Market St., requesting a GPBS liquor license which allows the sale of packaged beer and wine only for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week be approved.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Stockton informed the Applicant that this item would appear on the February 13, 2012 City Council Consent Agenda. He encouraged her to attend this meeting.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting recessed at 4:28 p.m.

Commissioner Clapp addressed the two (2) articles in today's Pantagraph, ((Man Facing Weapons Charges and Bartender Accused of Sex Assault). Clay Wheeler, Asst. Police Chief, stated that the sexual assault involved an employer of Fat Jacks located at 507 - 511 N. Main St. He noted the incident included a reference to an after hours party. The location of this party was not stated. Commissioner Stockton added that the individual left with the bartender and later alleged that there was a sexual assault.

Commissioner Buchanan believed that the weapon incident occurred at Drifters located at 612 N. Main St. He believed that a patron showed the doorman a weapon. Asst. Chief Wheeler informed the Commission that Drifters' staff took appropriate action. Mayor Stockton noted that the incident was handled well. Commissioner Buchanan expressed his belief that Drifters was doing a good job. Asst. Chief Wheeler added that there had been no mention of problems/complaints at this location.

Commissioner Petersen questioned the Downtown hire back details. Asst. Chief Wheeler noted that the focus was on the 500 and 600 blocks of N. Main St. Police officers visited the taverns, conducted compliance checks, etc.

Commissioner Buchanan noted the apartments above Flingers located at 608 N. Main St. He cited the amount of foot traffic entering and exiting this building. He had observed individuals exiting this building with open liquor. He believed that the Police Department had been called to

this location. Asst. Chief Wheeler expressed his willingness to have the Police Department investigate same. He added that there have been residences with limited activity.

Commissioner Stockton encouraged Commissioner Buchanan to contact the Police Department immediately when he observed this type of behavior. Commissioner Buchanan believed that Drifters ownership had spoken to the Police Department.

Commissioner Stockton addressed two (2) items. He cited a letter received from Walgreens in which they plan to request a change of classification from PBS (Packaged sales, Beer and wine only, Sunday sales) to PAS (Packaged sales, All types of alcohol, Sunday sales). He added that Walgreens held three (3) liquor licenses at the following locations: 1408 N. Main St., 2611 E. Oakland Ave. and 1525 N. Veterans Pkwy. He welcomed the Commission's feedback. The Commission should consider impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

Commissioner Tompkins expressed his opposition to the store located on Oakland Ave. He cited neighborhood saturation.

Commissioner Petersen noted that this store was located in a commercial district. He described this store as state of art. He expressed his concern regarding the Main St. store. He cited its proximity to the Illinois Wesleyan University campus. He also acknowledged that Kroger's located at 1502 N. Main St. was across the street from Walgreens. He also questioned who would provide the Commission's feedback to Walgreens.

Commissioner Buchanan stated that Walgreens would have to request the change of classification. He hoped that the Police Department would alert the Commission to any issues at any of these three (3) locations.

Commissioner Stockton reminded the Commission of the white papers. He questioned the status of same. His goal was to receive draft white papers by the end of the month. He requested that this topic be placed on the Commission's February 14, 2012 meeting agenda.

Commissioner Buchanan questioned if there were any liquor violations. He added that the Commission had taken a more aggressive stance with repeat violators.

Asst. Chief Wheeler suggested that the Commission recognize businesses that successfully pass a compliance check. The City wanted its liquor license holders to do the right thing.

Commissioner Buchanan questioned if the Commission had a budget. Commissioner Stockton suggested a certificate be awarded to the business. Commissioner Petersen added that the certificate should include the number of years without a violation. Commissioner Clapp recommended that a letter also be sent to the business principal.

Commissioner Stockton also addressed public awareness. The City was auditing liquor license holders for compliance with liquor sales. Commissioner Petersen recommended that the Commission reach out to the Downtown Bar Association.

Commissioner Tompkins informed the Commission that he had notified the Castle Theater, (located at 209 E. Washington St.), owners of the noise complaints. They would be working with Steve Parker and Fred Wollrab to address this issue. He believed that it would be resolved.

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

Respectfully,

Tracey Covert, CRM, CMC, RMC
City Clerk