



MINUTES OF THE BLOOMINGTON  
LIQUOR COMMISSION  
September 8, 2015

**1 Call to order**

The regular meeting of the Liquor Commission was called to order by Commissioner Renner at 4:00 p.m. on September 8, 2015.

**2 Roll Call**

Mayor Renner directed the City Clerk to call the roll.

Tari Renner, Geoffrey Tompkins and Jim Jordan Commissioners, George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Asst. Chief Clay Wheeler, and Renee Gooderham, Chief Deputy Clerk.

**3 Public Comment**

No one came forward to address the Commission.

The following was presented:

**4 Consideration of approving the Commission minutes of August 11, 2015.**

Motion by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Renner to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of August 11, 2015.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

The following was presented:

**5 Consideration of approving a request of Huge Edwards and Nicole Lindstrom to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their October 16, 2015 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.**

A representative was not present for this item.

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner Jordan to lay this item over to the October 13, 2015 Liquor Commission.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

The following was presented:

**6 Consideration of approving a request of Zachary Young and Shannon Sturtz to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their March 19, 2016 wedding reception to be held at Miller Park Pavilion.**

Zachary Young, groom, addressed the Commission. He stated that Times Past Inn would cater the event. He anticipated 160 guests. Beer and wine only would be served.

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner Jordan to recommend at the October 12, 2015 City Council meeting approval of the request from Zachary Young and Shannon Sturtz to allow beer and wine consumption at their March 19, 2016 wedding reception to be held at Miller Park Pavilion.

Motion carried, (viva voce)

Commissioner Renner encouraged Mr. Young to attend the Council meeting of October 12, 2015.

The following was presented:

**7 Consideration of approving an application from MBBS, Inc., d/b/a Blooming Food Mart, located at 807 S. Main 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.**

Laksltmi Bhargava Raul, Blooming Food Mart Manager, addressed the Commission. He noted that the store currently sold groceries and tobacco products. Customers had requested alcohol sales.

Commissioner Renner read from Chapter 6, Alcoholic Beverages, Sections 4B; Creation of New License – Findings.

Mr. Raul stated that single serve would not be available. The minimum amount sold would be a six (6) pack and the largest twenty-four (24) pack. These would be available cold. He acknowledged the tavern next door, Winners Lounge, 801 S. Main.

Commissioner Jordan believed Winners Lounge was approved to sell package liquor. He noted that Hucks #360, located at 102 W. Oakland Ave., also sold package liquor.

Clay Wheeler, Asst. Chief, addressed the Commission. He believed the business would be similar to Price Rite, located at 706 N. Clinton. He could not predict neighborhood impact.

Mr. Raul stated he was BASSETT (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education) certified.

Commissioner Tompkins questioned familiarity with Chapter 6, Alcoholic Beverages and Illinois Liquor Control Commission. Mr. Raul responded negatively. He had been working for MBBS, Inc. for two (2) months.

Commissioner Renner requested public input for the application.

Chris Hotz, 807 S. Main St., addressed the Commission. He provided a letter from Kim Holman-Short, Executive Director, Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington, stating opposition of the application. He provided the Commission with historical information and signed petitions in opposition of the application.

Mr. Hotz noted that Eric's Restaurant, located at 903 W. Wood St., Parkview Inn, located at 1003 S. Morris Ave., and West Side Food & Beverage, located 906 S. Morris Ave. held liquor licenses.

Mr. Hotz believed allowing MBBS, Inc. a liquor license would increase public intoxication, gang and drug activity.

Bryan Knuth, 302 W. Wood St., addressed the Commission. He noted that the neighborhood had previous voiced concerns with Walgreens liquor application. Walgreens listened to the neighborhood and choose to withdraw the application.

He believed the license would have a negative impact on property values. There was heavy liquor saturation.

Dan Julian, 803 S. Center St., addressed the Commission. He lived across the street from Winners Lounge. He believed allowing same would draw individuals at closing time to applicant's establishment.

Deb Knuth, 302 W. Wood St., addressed the Commission. She stated that her son had special needs. She cited the poor establishment upkeep questioning if allowing alcohol would increase same.

Commissioner Renner requested public input for support of the application. No one came forward.

Mr. Raul provided the Commission with sign petitions in support of liquor sales. He stated that he was in the process of cleaning up the outside area. He believed the car wash could be repaired and operates soon.

Commissioner Renner read from Chapter 6, Alcoholic Beverages, Section 4B; Creation of New License – Findings, citing number 5, 5a and 5b.

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner Jordan to deny the application from MBBS, Inc., d/b/a Blooming Food Mart, located at 807 S. Main 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.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Tompkins, Jordan and Renner.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

**8 Consideration of approving an application from Freedom Oil Company, d/b/a Freedom Oil #21, located at 1801 S. Veterans Pkwy., 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.**

Michael Owens, President, Freedom Oil, addressed the Commission. He noted that he currently held liquor licenses at 1331 N. Linden St., and 1802 W. Market St. Mr. Owens stated that the business was purchased in 1980.

Commissioner Tompkins questioned liquor violations. Mr. Owens believed there were none.

All employees were BASSETT (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education) certified. The store would not sell single serve. Packaged liquor could be purchased cold.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Tompkins, Jordan and Renner.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Renner stated that this item would appear on the September 28, 2015 Council's Consent Agenda. He encouraged Mr. Owens to attend same.

The following was presented:

**9 Consideration of approving an application from Suzi's XVI, LLC, d/b/a Suzi's Chili Bowl, located at 1701 S. Veterans Pkwy., Ste. 2, requesting an RBS liquor license which would allow the sale of beer and wine only by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week.**

Commissioner Renner noted that this was the second appearance for the applicant. Same was heard by the Commission on August 11, 2015 and laid over.

Jeff and Susan McAfoos, owners, addressed the Commission. Mrs. McAfoos provided the Commission menu copies. Mr. McAfoos noted that financials were turned into the City Clerk's office.

Mr. McAfoos explained that there had been a Chili food concept in Springfield, IL for 100 years. He has received permission from Mark Roberts III to purchase Dew's Chilli and sell same under Suzi's Chili.

Commissioner Renner questioned if the main business model was to sell alcohol and have video gaming machines. Mr. McAfoos stated that same was part of the business model. Suzi's would have the same model as Dew's Chilli in Springfield, IL. Mr. Roberts had relayed to him that twenty-five percent (25%) sales would be generated from alcohol, and seventy-five percent (75%) from food. Video gaming revenue would be low.

Commissioner Renner read from Chapter 6, Alcoholic Beverages, Sections 4B; Creation of New License – Findings (14 a - d). Mr. McAfoos stated that Mr. Roberts did not indicate gaming revenue information.

Commissioner Jordan questioned if video gaming was not approved would Mr. McAfoos apply for a liquor license. Mr. McAfoos responded that he would have to give same consideration. Commissioner Jordan cited concern with the establishments purpose to promote an income based on the larger percentage from video gaming.

Commissioner Renner clarified that the establishment would have five (5) machines. Mrs. McAfoos responded affirmatively. There would be service for approximately twenty to twenty-five (20 – 25) patrons or five to six (5 – 6) high top tables. There would also be a bar/counter top area. Commissioner Renner stated that twenty to twenty-five (20 - 25) patrons and five (5) video games indicated a video gaming parlor.

Mr. McAfoos stated that the interior pace was restrictive due large restrooms. They would have as much seating as the space would allow.

Commissioner Tompkins questioned employees. Mr. McAfoos anticipated four (4) employee total and two (2) shifts. Susan and he were BASSETT (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education) certified.

Commissioner Tompkins questioned the kitchen investment. Mr. McAfoos stated that the chili was purchased frozen. The kitchen investment would be approximately \$30,000 - \$50,000.

Commissioner Tompkins questioned beer service. Mr. McAfoos stated that beer would be sold in bottles, no cans and no taps. There would be a glass cooler.

Motion by Commissioner Jordan to defer Suzi's XVI, LLC, d/b/a Suzi's Chili Bowl, located at 1701 S. Veterans Pkwy., Ste. 2, requesting an RBS liquor license which would allow the sale of beer and wine only by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week to the City Council based on the concept that same would create another issue.

Motion failed.

Jan Lancaster, owner/operator, The Bistro, located at 316 N. Main St., addressed the Commission. She believed Suzi's XVI had the same concept as Lucky Seven's, located at 1804 S. Hershey Rd., Unit 9. Commissioner Renner responded that the Liquor Commission could regulate the number and type of liquor licenses.

Motion by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Renner to deny the application of Suzi's XVI, LLC, d/b/a Suzi's Chili Bowl, located at 1701 S. Veterans Pkwy., Ste. 2, requesting an RBS liquor license which would allow the sale of beer and wine only by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week until the City Council provided direction.

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

Ayes: Commissioner Jordan.

Nays: Commissioners Tompkins and Renner.

Motion failed.

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner to Renner to deny the application from Suzi's XVI, LLC, d/b/a Suzi's Chili Bowl, located at 1701 S. Veterans Pkwy., Ste. 2, requesting an RBS liquor license which would allow the sale of beer and wine only by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week.

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

Ayes: Commissioner Tompkins and Renner.

Nays: Commissioner Jordan.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

**10 Consideration of approving a Change of Corporation officer position from Schnuck's Markets, Inc., d/b/a Schnuck's Market, located at 1701 E. Empire St., 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.**

The changes are: Robert Wiegert, Managing Officer was replaced by Jed E. Penny, Managing Officer.

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner Jordan to approve the Change of Corporation officer position from Schnuck's Markets, Inc., d/b/a Schnuck's Market, located at 1701 E. Empire St., 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 as presented.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

The following was presented:

- 11 Consideration of approving a Change of Corporation officer position from American Drug Stores LLC, d/b/a Osco Drug Store #3775, located at 2103 N. Veterans Pkwy., 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.**

The changes are: Michael Bessent, Treasurer was replaced by Gary Morton, Treasurer; Justin Dye, Chief Operating Officer was replaced by James Perkins, Chief Operating Officer.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

The following was presented:

- 12 Consideration of approving a Change of Corporation officer position from American Drug Stores LLC, d/b/a Osco Drug Store #3775, located at 2103 N. Veterans Pkwy., 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.**

The changes are: Michael Bessent, Treasurer was replaced by Gary Morton, Treasurer; Justin Dye, Chief Operating Officer was replaced by James Perkins, Chief Operating Officer.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

The following was presented:

- 13 Consideration of approving a Change of Corporation officer position from Luther Oaks, d/b/a Luther Oaks, located at 601 Lutz Rd., currently holding an RAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises.**

The changes are: James Holbrook, Senior Vice President of Operations left the company; Carl Mollenkamp, CFO was replaced by Lori S. Fedyk, CFO.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Commissioner Tompkins requested future discussion on tax stamps on video gaming and increased liquor fees.

Commissioner Renner stated that the Budget Task Force would be presenting their recommendations to the City Council on September 21, 2015. A citywide fee analysis was scheduled for City Council approval on September 14, 2015.

## **14 Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner Jordan to adjourn. Time: 5:05 p.m.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Gooderham  
Chief Deputy Clerk