



MINUTES
LIQUOR COMMISSION - REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024, 4:00 PM

The Liquor Commission convened in regular session at 4:00 p.m., December 10, 2024. Commissioner Meister called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Lindsey Meister	Commissioner	Present
Mboka Mwilambwe	Commissioner	Absent

Staff Advisors

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Amanda Stutsman	Deputy City Clerk	Present
George Boyle	Asst. Corporation Counsel	Present
Chris McAllister	Building Official	Present
Paul Williams	Asst. Police Chief	Present

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Consent Agenda

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

Commissioner Meister approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 4.A. Consideration and Action on Approving the Minutes of the November 12, 2024, Regular Liquor Commission Meeting. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Regular Agenda

All license creations, amendments, or transfers are contingent upon compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.

The following item was presented:

Item 5. A. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from GS Partners, Inc., d/b/a Ride the Nine/Shooters Lounge, located at 503 N. Prospect Rd., Suite 300, is Requesting Approval of a Change in Ownership for a Class TAPS (Tavern, All Types of Alcohol, Package, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

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

Jay South, Proposed Owner (Applicant), after being sworn, addressed the Commission. He stated that he would bring his 32 plus years of experience in the restaurant bar business to this establishment. He and his wife envisioned bringing back a true sports bar to the east side

including a new liquor program and elevated food menu. He stated that he and his wife would run the day-to-day operations.

Commissioner Meister asked if Mr. South would be the General Manager and he foresaw any significant changes to the operations. Mr. South stated he would be the General Manager and the changes would include instilling a new food and liquor program as well as interior design changes.

Commissioner Meister asked if the hours of operation would remain the same and if there would be additional staff to be BASSET trained. Mr. South stated he was BASSET trained and that all staff would be required to be BASSET trained.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, asked Mr. South to elaborate on his years of experience in liquor and a restaurant. Mr. South stated he originally brought Rosati's Pizza to Bloomington in 2006 which he owned for eight years. He explained that he then moved to Los Angeles to open up restaurants there and he opened up two pizzerias in Las Vegas. He stated personal reasons to return to Bloomington.

Chris McAllister, Building Official, reminded Mr. South that if he planned to change walls or anything similar that a building permit may be needed and to contact the City.

Asst. Police Chief Paul Williams reminded Mr. South to update his emergency contact information with the Police Department.

Commissioner Meister asked if there was anyone in the audience present to speak for or against the item. No one came forward.

Commissioner Meister closed the Public Hearing at 4:06 p.m.

Commissioner Meister positively recommended the Item to Council as presented.

The following item was presented:

Item 5. B. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from QuikTrip Corporation, d/b/a QuikTrip #7193, located at 2202 W. Market St., Requesting Approval for the Creation of a Class GPAS (Gas Station Grocery Convenience Store, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

Commissioner Meister opened the Public Hearing at 4:07 p.m.

Rob Anderson, Applicant's Attorney, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. He stated that QuikTrip had dozens of licensed locations in Illinois and many more throughout the United States. He stated they sold packaged goods, to go alcohol, spirits and wine within allowable limits for local ordinances. He stated they sought a license at the new store so that patrons would have the same experience at this location as they would at any other location.

Asst. Police Chief Paul Willimas asked what the anticipated open date was. Mr. Anderson stated the anticipated opening date was January 9, 2025. He stated they were aware that, given the City schedule, QuikTrip would not have their liquor license before that date. As such, they would not sell alcohol until after both their local and state liquor licenses were approved.

Asst. Police Chief Paul Williams asked Mr. Anderson to update QuikTrip's emergency contact information with the Police Department.

Commissioner Meister asked what the store hours would be. Mr. Anderson stated the convenience store would be open 24 hours but liquor sales would only be within the allowable hours under Bloomington ordinances.

Commissioner Meister asked if all employees would be BASSET trained. Mr. Anderson stated they were in the process of hiring but as individuals were brought on, they would be trained. He stated that the General Manager and Asst. Managers were all trained.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle asked if the license included all types of alcohol. Mr. Anderston stated it would.

Jaymin Moore, General Manager of QuikTrip #7193, after being sworn, addressed the Commission.

Asst. Corporation Counsel Boyle asked Mr. Moore if he had previous experience managing a similar establishment. Mr. Moore stated he did and that he started in 2020.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle asked if Mr. Moore was local to Bloomington-Normal. Mr. Moore stated he was originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, but that he now lived in the area for over a month.

Staff had no additional questions.

Commissioner Meister asked if there was anyone in the audience present to speak for or against the item. No one came forward.

Commissioner Meister closed the Public Hearing at 4:11 p.m.

Commissioner Meister positively recommended the Item to Council as presented.

The following item was presented:

Item 5. C. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Family Dollar, LLC, d/b/a Family Dollar Store # 21742, located at 1512 W. Market St., Unit 400, Requesting Approval of the Creation of a Class PBS (Package, Beer & Wine Only, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

Commissioner Meister opened the Public Hearing at 4:12 p.m.

Jonathan Crumley, National Consultant for Family Dollar (Applicant), after being sworn, addressed the Commission. He stated Family Dollar was requesting a beer and wine only off-premises liquor license including Sunday sales as part of a national effort. He stated they currently sold alcohol in approximately 22 stores in Illinois, with the District Manager of this location in charge of 12 of those. He stated they were small box retail that did not sell discounted liquor or alcohol. Mr. Crumley stated beer and wine were normal grocery store items.

Commissioner Meister asked if the District Manager was located in Bloomington. Mr. Crumley stated she was not but was within a hour drive.

Commissioner Meister asked what the store hours were. Mr. Crumley stated they were 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. seven days a week.

Commissioner Meister asked if staff that would sell alcohol would receive BASSET training. He stated that staff would be trained before the first sale of alcohol but believed only the District Manager qualified currently.

Staff had no additional questions.

Commissioner Meister asked if there was anyone in the audience present to speak for or against the item. No one came forward.

Commissioner Meister closed the Public Hearing at 4:14 p.m.

Commissioner Meister positively recommended the Item to Council as presented.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.D. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Ma Bhavani, LLC., d/b/a Bidi Smoker, located at 2303 E. Washington St., Suite 1, Requesting Approval for the Creation of a Class PAS (Package, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

Commissioner Meister opened the Public Hearing at 4:15 p.m.

Hiteshkumar Patel, Manager of Bidi Smoker (Applicant), after being sworn, addressed the Commission. He stated the owner was out of the country but he would answer any questions. He stated they received multiple requests from customers to have liquor available.

Commissioner Meister asked if they currently sold any alcohol. Mr. Patel stated no.

Commissioner Meister asked if anyone has held a liquor license before. Mr. Patel stated the owner had a liquor license at three locations in Chicago.

Commissioner Meister asked for additional detail on the products sold in the store. Mr. Patel stated they would sell packaged liquor and beer in small quantities like half pints.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle asked how many staff members were employed. Mr. Patel stated there were currently two.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle asked how many staff members were employed. Mr. Patel stated there were currently two. Asst. Corporation Counsel Boyle asked if additional staff would be hired. Mr. Patel stated it depended on the amount of business.

Asst. Corporation Counsel Boyle asked what the hours of operation were. Mr. Patel stated they were open 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. but would stay open until 11:00 p.m. if they received a liquor license. Asst. Corporation Counsel Boyle asked if Mr. Patel would object if a license condition with a closing time of 11:00 p.m. was added to the liquor license. Mr. Patel stated he would not object.

Chris McAllister, Building Official, asked for additional information on what was sold at the location as it could affect other licenses. Mr. Patel stated they sold tobacco and had a Tobacco License.

Asst. Police Chief ("AC") Paul Williams asked if there was a back door entrance to the establishment or if just had the entrance facing Washington St. Mr. Patel stated the back door was an emergency exit only.

AC Williams asked if the parking lot was owned or if a certain number of parking spaces were rented by the establishment. Mr. Patel stated no, the parking lot was common parking for everyone. AC Williams stated the application noted the anticipation of an additional 50 cars or customers per day for alcohol sales. Mr. Patel stated they believed it would be around 50 customers. AC Williams then asked what happens when the small parking lot is full. Mr. Patel stated there was additional parking behind the complex.

Asst. Corporation Counsel Boyle confirmed with Mr. Patel that he managed other businesses that sold alcohol. He then asked if there had been any issues at those locations. Mr. Patel stated no.

Commissioner Meister asked if there was anyone in the audience present to speak for or against the item. No one came forward.

AC Williams asked if there was security features or surveillance. Mr. Patel stated there were eight cameras including two outside, and would add an additional eight cameras, two more outside and six more inside.

Commissioner Meister asked if there had been concerns at this location or a history about the location. AC Williams expressed his concern about the very congested parking lot noting that Jimmy John's had an outdoor dining area that did not have any protection except for a decorative fence. He further expressed his concern that if Jimmy Johns was busy and worried about outside diners in front of a liquor store. He was also concerned for a potential intoxicated driver to hurt a patron.

Staff had no additional questions.

Commissioner Meister closed the Public Hearing at 4:23 p.m.

Commissioner Meister stated that she would prefer the Mayor's feedback on this application and since he was not present, she would continue the item.

Commissioner Meister continued the Item until the January 14, 2025, Liquor Commission meeting.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.E. First Appearance on an Amended Complaint issued to JL Palma, LLC, d/b/a Venue 309 and Joseph Palma, alleging two violations of Chapter 6, Section 102A and Section 101 of the Bloomington City Code.

Asst. Corporation Counsel Boyle provided a history of the complaint noting it was initially filed against Venue 309, a permit holder to receive a liquor license at the time. He stated that per the liquor ordinance, each license holder must have a liquor license to engage in the sale of alcohol. He stated the second count was for lack of reporting a change in ownership. He stated that Joseph Palma, as the primary member of the limited liability company, which was involuntarily dissolved by the State of Illinois, was personally responsible.

A first appearance provides an opportunity to admit or deny the allegations of the complaint. Mr. Palma was not present.

Commissioner Meister continued the Item until the January 14, 2025, Liquor Commission meeting.

Old Business

No Old Business was discussed.

New Business

No New Business was discussed.

Adjournment

Commissioner Meister adjourned the meeting.

The Meeting Adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Lindsey Meister

Lindsey Meister, Commissioner

Amanda Stutsman

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

