



MINUTES
LIQUOR COMMISSION - SPECIAL SESSION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

The Liquor Commission convened in special session in the Government Center Chambers at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 28, 2022. Commissioner Mboka Mwilambwe called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mboka Mwilambwe	Commissioner	Present	
Lindsey Meister	Commissioner	Present	
Jim Jordan	Commissioner	Absent	

Staff Advisors

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Amanda Stutsman	Deputy City Clerk	Present	
George Boyle	Asst. Corporation Counsel	Present	
Ken Bays	Assistant Police Chief	Present	
Chris McAllister	Building Official	Present	
Catherine Dunlap	Downtown Development Specialist	Absent	

Public Comment

Individuals wishing to provide emailed public comment must email comments to publiccomment@cityblm.org at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. Individuals wishing to speak in-person may register at cityblm.org/register at least 5 minutes before the start of the meeting.

No Public Comment was received in person or 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.

No Items were presented on the Consent Agenda.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Consideration and action on the Request from the Shriner's Children's Hospital for their Snyder Shriner 5K Run/Walk fundraiser to be held in areas of Bloomington around Holiday Park, on Saturday, October 8, 2022, to allow for the service of beer and wine for their event by a licensed provider(s), as requested by the City Clerk Department.

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

Tracey Haas Riley, Snyder Shriner's Event Organizer, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. She provided a brief history of the event and explained that the proceeds would go to the Shriner's Hospital for Children. She explained that this would be the 8th event and reported that the event has raised over \$150,000 collectively. Mrs. Haas Riley stated that the

run would start and stop in TenTac Enterprises parking lot where there were post-run activities and refreshments. She informed the Commission that Lil Beaver Brewery wanted to get involved and provide beer to participants of drinking age post-run. She assured the Commission that offering beer was a perk of the event and not the sole focus.

Commissioner Meister confirmed that alcohol would be served in the parking lot. Mrs. Haas Riley confirmed the location as the parking lot.

Commissioner Meister then asked if the Lil Beaver Staff would be BASSET trained. Mrs. Haas Riley nodded yes.

Commissioner Meister asked if the race was open to all ages and how participants would be indicated as aged 21 and over. Mrs. Haas Riley stated participants sign a race waiver that requests the age of participant. She stated that at the time of race check-in, participants would be carded and receive a wristband if aged 21 and over. She noted that all beer will be in a contained area.

Brandon Ciasnocha, Lil Beaver Brewery Representative, after being sworn, addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Meister then asked if the Lil Beaver Staff would be BASSET trained and if participants aged 21 and over would receive wristbands. Mr. Ciasnocha confirmed all staff would be BASSED trained and that participants aged 21 and over would receive wristbands.

Commissioner Meister asked for confirmation of the hours beer would be served. Mr. Ciasnocha stated they requested service from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mrs. Haas Riley stated that participants would not begin drinking until 10:00 p.m. and she stated that, in her experience, there would be little to no drinking after 1:00 p.m.

Staff had no additional questions.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if there was anyone present to speak for or against the application. No individuals stepped forward.

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the Public Hearing at 4:13 p.m.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe to approve the Item as presented.

Commissioner Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Meister, Mwilambwe

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Public Hearing and action on an Application from No Ceiling Hospitality, LLC, d/b/a Shake It Up Cocktail Lounge, to be located at 105 W. Front St., requesting an approval of a Class TAS (Tavern, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Mwilambwe opened the Public Hearing at 4:13p.m.

Patrick Cox, Attorney for No Ceiling Hospitality, LLC, Patrick Wittaker, Co-Owner of No Ceiling Hospitality, LLC, and Tyler Porter, Co-Owner of No Ceiling Hospitality, LLC, were sworn in.

Mr. Cox stated that both owners were over the age of 21, U.S. citizens, never been judged disabled or convicted of a felony, and long-time residents of Bloomington. He noted that both owners also had worked in the hospitality industry for many years. He went on to explain that the Applicants planned to remodel the building for an upscale lounge with bar food.

Commissioner Meister asked if all staff will be BASSET trained. Mr. Wittaker confirmed all staff would be BASSET trained.

Commissioner Meister asked the owners to confirm the hours of operation. Mr. Wittaker stated that they initially will open from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for lunch service and then again from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. (midnight) to include dinner service. He stated that depending on patronage, they would consider extending their hours. He informed the Commission that, even after the kitchen was closed for dinner, appetizers would be available.

Commissioner Meister asked what their target market would be. Mr. Wittaker stated that individuals 27 and above that had disposable income. He further explained that the target market would not include college-aged individuals but instead hoped the establishment would be a spot for, business professionals during lunch, gathering with friends for cocktails or date nights similar to other bars on Front St.

Commissioner Meister asked if there would be live music. Mr. Wittaker stated yes, however, the building currently had a tin ceiling which, in his experience, does not work well with acoustics for live bands so, instead, they would lean towards acoustic acts akin to dinner music.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked what the full capacity would be. Mr. Wittaker stated that they have not received their certificate of occupancy but guessed that it would hold 90-110 post-remodel.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked the number of staff to be employed. Mr. Wittaker stated that currently, two chefs were employed in addition to the two owners but, they intended to employ a total of eight front of the house and eight back of the house employees. He noted they also planned to participate in catering in the future.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked when they planned to open. Mr. Wittaker stated they hoped to open in November 2022.

Commissioner Meister confirmed that the establishment would be for those aged 21 and over. Mr. Wittaker confirmed the establishment would be for 21 and over.

Chris McAllister, Building Official, reminded the Applicants that remodel work required building permits. Mr. Wittaker stated the only remodeling to the building that had been completed so far was repainting and new flooring.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, asked Mr. Wittaker what his hospitality industry experience included.

Mr. Wittaker stated that he had 19 years of hospitality industry-related experience which included delivering pizza for Monical's Pizza in high school, bartending in college while at Eastern Illinois University, then delivered beer for Lakeshore Beverage, and then bartended at Maguire's for 10 years which included management experience. He went on to state that he also assisted in opening The Pass Pub & Grill, and then worked at DR McKay's for almost two years.

The Commission and staff had no additional questions for Tyler Porter.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if there was anyone present to speak for or against the application. No individuals stepped forward.

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the Public Hearing at 4:25 p.m.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe to positively recommend the Item to Council.

Commissioner Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Meister, Mwilambwe

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C. Public Hearing and action on an Application from The Lincoln Springs Center, LLC., d/b/a The Station Saloon, located at 1611 Morrissey Dr., Unit 1, requesting an approval of a change of ownership for their Class EAS (Entertainment, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Mwilambwe opened the Public Hearing at 4:26p.m.

Paul Halvorsen, Current Member of Ownership, and William Shannon Hurt, New Member of Ownership, after being sworn in, addressed the Commission.

Mr. Hurt stated that he purchased 15% of the corporation and therefore, needed to be approved by the Liquor Commission. He stated that Lincoln Springs held a liquor license for the past five years.

Mr. Halvorsen stated that Mr. Hurt had been in the hospitality industry for over 30 years and would be an asset to the business. He stated that he endorsed him 100%.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if there would be any changes to the day-to-day operations. Mr. Hurt stated there would not.

Mr. Boyle asked if the sale took place in July 2022. Mr. Hurt stated it did. Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if there was anyone present to speak for or against the application. No individuals stepped forward.

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the Public Hearing at 4:29 p.m.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe, to positively recommend the Item to Council.

Commissioner Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Meister, Mwilambwe

Motion carried.

Old Business

No Old Business was discussed.

New Business

No New Business was discussed.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was had.

Adjournment

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe, to adjourn.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Mboka Mwilambwe, Commissioner

ATTEST



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk