



MINUTES
REGULAR LIQUOR COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021, 4:00 P.M.

The Commission convened in regular session in the Government Center Chambers, 115 E. Washington Street at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 14, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Mboka Mwilambwe.

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	
Timothy McCoy	Assistant Police Chief	Present	
Catherine Dunlap	Downtown Development Specialist	Present	
Samantha Mlot	Downtown Development Specialist	Present	

Public Comment

No Individuals registered to speak live at public comment. No emailed public comment was received.

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.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented.

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

AYES: Mwilambwe, Meister

Motion carried.

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.

Item 4.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the August 10, 2021, Regular Liquor Commission Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (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 the Request from Bloomington Normal Sunrise Rotary, who will hold an annual Oktoberfest 5K Run/1 Mile Walk fundraiser with a reception held at the GE Clubhouse at 1750 General Electric Rd. on Saturday, October 17, 2021, for a Class LB (Limited/Beer and Wine) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Mwilambwe opened the public hearing at 4:07 p.m.

Commissioner Meister recused herself at 4:07 p.m. as she was a member of the applicant organization.

Glen Harbin, Representative for the Bloomington Normal Sunrise Rotary ("Rotary"), after being sworn, addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked Mr. Harbin to explain the event. Mr. Harbin explained that the event was their 12th annual fundraising event that would support the Rotaract Club which benefited the Central Catholic High School. The event would include a run or walk with a brat dinner to follow at the GE Clubhouse. Alcohol would be served by BASSET trained individuals and participants who were aged 21 and over would receive a wristband indicating they could drink alcohol.

George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, stated that the Rotary had received numerous limited liquor licenses in the past and that he was not aware of any concerns.

Liquor Commissioner asked the hours that alcohol would be served. Mr. Harbin stated alcohol would be served from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and was typically one serving per customer.

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the public hearing at 4:10 p.m.

Commissioner Mwilambwe approved to send the item to Council with a positive recommendation.

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

AYES: Mwilambwe

Motion carried.

Commissioner Meister returned to the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Public Hearing and action on the Request from Bloomington Normal Jaycees, who will hold their Bruegala with a Twist fundraiser in Portions of Downtown Bloomington on Friday, October 1, 2021, for a Class LB (Limited/Beer and Wine) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Mwilambwe opened the public hearing at 4:11 p.m.

Andrea Whalen, representative from Bloomington Normal Jaycees ("Jaycees"), after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Ms. Whalen explained that the organization

condensed the event and combined it with Downtown Bloomington's First Friday event for October. She went on to explain that both Jefferson St. and Main St. would be closed for the event and would hold a variety of beer tents and food trucks along with a stage for live music entertainment.

The BASSET trained volunteers from Bloomington Normal Jaycees would verify identification at the ticket station where wristbands would be issued to individuals aged 21 and the volunteers would also serve the alcohol. Signs would be posted that no alcohol could leave the event

Catherine Dunlap, Downtown Development Specialist in the Economic and Community Development Department, explained that she had worked with the event organizer on the event and that the Special Event Permit was included in the Commission's packet. She also confirmed that the event would be held in conjunction with the First Friday event.

George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, asked for additional details on the barricades for street closure. Mrs. Dunlap stated that Type 3 barricades would be placed similar to the Brats and Bags event and that the stage would be on the corner of Jefferson St. and Front St. which would also act as a barrier. She stated that they had received permission to use the Museum lawn for the event from the McLean County History Museum.

Ms. Whalen stated that the hiring of BASSET trained volunteers that understood alcohol cannot leave the event area was a high priority for the Jaycees.

Mr. Boyle noted that various safety measurements suggested by City staff were implemented into the Special Event Permit.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked the type of receptacle the alcohol would be served in. Ms. Whalen stated that alcohol would be served in cans or 12-ounce servings. Mr. Boyle reminded the Commission that the Ordinance now permitted aluminum cans but not glass bottles.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked about the anticipated number of attendees. Ms. Whalen responded that they anticipated 600 attendees.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if they would still hold the traditional event at the Corn Crib. Ms. Whalen explained that they elected to hold the Bruegala with a Twist in place of the larger event.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if the Bruegala event would return next year. Ms. Whalen hoped it would.

Commissioner Meister confirmed with Ms. Whalen that alcohol would only be served from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Commissioner Mwilambwe close the public hearing at 4:18 p.m.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe, that the item be sent to Council with a positive recommendation.

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

AYES: Mwilambwe, Meister

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C. Public Hearing and action on an Application from Aldi, Inc., d/b/a Aldi, Inc. #55, to be located at 2121 Village Lane, requesting a Class PBS (Package, Beer and Wine Only, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Mwilambwe opened the public hearing at 4:19 p.m.

Camre Harrer, representative of Aldi Inc., after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Ms. Harrer explained that Aldi would opening a 3rd store on October 27, 2021.

George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, stated that the Legal Department had no previous issues with Aldi.

Commissioner Meister confirmed with Ms. Harrer that all employees selling alcohol would be BASSET trained.

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the public hearing at 4:21 p.m.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe, that the item be sent to Council with a positive recommendation.

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

AYES: Mwilambwe, Meister

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.D. Public Hearing and action on an Application from The 236 Group, LLC, d/b/a The Stable Music Hall and Lounge, to be located at 236 E. Front St. requesting a 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 4:21 p.m.

Nicolas LeRoy, Owner of The Stable Music Hall & Lounge, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. He explained that the business model centered around an intimate and upscale music and entertainment space that would include comedy, singer songwriters, blues, live band, karaoke, etc. He explained that they would have mixologists on staff to create and serve craft cocktails and beers from local breweries. He noted that the establishment would close at midnight on the weekdays and 1:00 a.m. on weekends. He stressed his intentions not to stay open late. Mr. LeRoy then explained that he also owned NTL Productions, who worked with local businesses such as The Castle Theatre. He noted that The Castle had a capacity of 800 whereas the Stable would have a smaller capacity which would provide new talent a location to begin and grow their fan base.

George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, asked what the capacity was. Mr. LeRoy stated the multiple configurations ultimately allowing for a capacity of 175 to 200.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if Mr. LeRoy intended to serve food. Mr. LeRoy responded that they were not interested at this time but may serve frozen pizza. He then noted that there was not enough room in the space for a kitchen.

Mr. Boyle asked Mr. LeRoy with his familiarity with alcohol licensed establishments.

Mr. LeRoy responded that while he had not experience with alcohol sales, his company had worked with venues all over the Midwest and learned intimate knowledge of ticket sales. He stated that all staff were BASSET trained.

Commissioner Mwilambwe Mr. LeRoy's plan for staffing. Mr. LeRoy responded that on busy nights he intended to have 2 bartenders, 3 servers plus security at door for ticket verification, and then 1 bartender and 1 server on slower nights. He went on to describe the space which would include 4 top tables and vignettes which would be comfortable seating areas that could be considered VIP seating.

Mr. Boyle asked what steps Mr. LeRoy had taken to be added into the neighborhood. Mr. LeRoy responded that he had completed 130 events in this community. He stated that generally everyone in the neighborhood and then named multiple local bars that were supportive.

Commissioner Meister asked what the target market was. Mr. LeRoy stated that the location would cater to clientele that are- non-college demographic, more upscale as the tickets and drinks will be at a higher price point such as those who frequent Epiphany Farms. He noted that the venue could hold pre- or post- concert parties.

He highlighted that he was the producer who sourced 75% of Castle's shows but that he did not to cannibalize other venues, so he wanted to be strategic when booking bands. He explained how he would be strategic in planning of events as to not host similar events as other local venues.

Commissioner Mwilambwe confirmed the hours of operation. Mr. LeRoy responded that the establishment would open at 5 to allow touring bands to sound check beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Meister asked if individuals under the age of 21. Mr. LeRoy confirmed that no one underage would be allowed.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the application.

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the public hearing at 4:37 p.m.

Mr. Boyle asked Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk, when the item would appear on the City Council Agenda Mrs. Stutsman responded that the item would appear on the 1st meeting in October.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe, that the item be sent to Council with a positive recommendation.

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

AYES: Mwilambwe, Meister

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.E. Public Hearing and action on a Liquor License Change of Ownership Application from Hostmark Hospitality Group Inc., d/b/a Bloomington Chateau Hotel & Corporate Center Bloomington, located at 1621 Jumer Drive, holding a Class EAS (Entertainment, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, to Adidev Hospitality Management, LLC, d/b/a Chateau Hotel and Conference Center, for the same license type, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Jeremy Cruthis, General Manager of The Chateau Hotel and Conference Center, after being sworn in, addressed Commission. He briefly explained the long-standing Chateau Hotel and that they sought a change of ownership from Hostmark to Adidev.

Commissioner Meister asked the hours of operation. Mr. Cruthis stated that while they sought for the license to permit the hotel and conference center to be opened until 2:00 a.m. and that all employees were BASSET certified.

Commissioner Mwilambwe confirmed that staff would remain the same. Mr. Cruthis responded affirmatively.

There were not concerns from staff advisors.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if there was anyone who would like to speak. No individuals spoke.

Mr. Cruthis stated that the new owner was local and was confident of the direction it was going.

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the public hearing at 4:38 p.m.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe, that the item be sent to Council with a positive recommendation.

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

AYES: Mwilambwe, Meister

Motion carried.

Old Business

No Old Business was discussed.

New Business

No New Business was discussed.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously (Viva Voce).

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Mboka Mwilambwe

Mboka Mwilambwe, Liquor Commissioner

ATTEST

Amanda Stutsman

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

