



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

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

Roll Call

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

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 ("AC")	Present

Public Comment

No in-person or emailed 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 made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 5.A. Consideration and Action on Approving the Minutes of the August 13, 2024, Regular Liquor Commission Meeting. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Commissioner Mwilambwe directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Mwilambwe; Meister

Motion carried.

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 6.A. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Clarabel, LTD, d/b/a Rosie's Pub, located at 106 E. Front Street, Requesting Approval of a Change in Ownership of the Class RAS (Restaurant, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

Commissioner Mwilambwe opened the Public Hearing at 4:03 p.m.

Cynthia Grieves-Anet, Owner of Rosie's Pub, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Ms. Grieves-Anet stated that the part-time owner, Molly Bradle, had resigned and transferred her 25% ownership to the corporation.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked whether Ms. Grieves-Anet would have 100% ownership, whether everything else would remain the same, and if staff were BASSET trained. Ms. Grieves-Anet stated that she would now have 100% ownership, everything else would remain the same, and staff were BASSET certified.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, asked how long Ms. Grieves-Anet had maintained ownership of the establishment. Ms. Grieves-Anet stated that she had been an owner for 25 years.

Staff had no additional questions.

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

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

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

Commissioner Mwilambwe directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Mwilambwe; Meister

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 6.B. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Dublin Bay, Inc., d/b/a Killarney's Irish Pub, located at 523 N. Main St., Requesting Approval of a Change in Ownership for their Class TAP (Tavern, All Types of Liquor, and Package Sales) Liquor License.

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

Madalynn Camp, Owner of Killarney's Irish Pub, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. She stated that they recently purchased Killarney's on August 1, 2024, and would be removing Ken Lundquist. She stated that ownership would be herself and Dylan Cote.

Commissioner Meister asked whether hours and everything else would remain the same. Ms. Camp stated that everything would remain the same, including the hours of operation.

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

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the Public Hearing at 4:10 p.m.

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

Commissioner Mwilambwe directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Mwilambwe; Meister

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 6.C. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Le Marchand De Vin, LLC, located at 1704 Eastland Dr., Ste. 8, Requesting Approval for a Change in Classification from a Class PAS (Package, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) to a Class TAPS (Tavern, All Types of Alcohol, Packaged and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

Commissioner Mwilambwe opened the Public Hearing at 4:11 p.m.

Ash Boeyen, Owner of Le Marchand De Vin, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. He stated that the business opened three months ago during Memorial Day weekend as a regular retail store. He stated that they adhere to regulations for their wine tastings and that customers have expressed interest in having a glass of wine after classes or tastings. He shared that wine classes and events were included on the original application and that they had met with Linda Foutch, Food Program Supervisor, with the McLean County Health Department regarding requirements for glassware and a commercial dishwasher. He shared that he wrote to the City about requirements and applying for the license was suggested. He explained that they would not extend hours, noted multiple planned wine classes, and further expressed their intent to remain a packaged liquor retailer with the option to offer a glass of wine for customers after.

Jennifer Boeyen, Owner of Le Marchand De Vin, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. She stressed that they did not want to be a bar, want to serve wine by the glass every day, or extend their hours. She shared that they have a machine that pours exactly one ounce of wine for samples, but it has the capability to pour three or five ounces pours. She explained they would only utilize this machine to pour servings instead of by staff, similar to Pour Brothers, and that it ran on a credit card system. She shared that they were working on the construction of an additional ADA-compliant (Americans with Disabilities Act) bathroom to meet Health Department requirements.

Commissioner Meister asked what the current hours of operation were. Mr. Boeyen stated the hours summer hours were to 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, but beginning in the fall, hours will be 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM Tuesday through Saturday, and 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Sunday. He shared that they would close to hold private event wine classes between 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM on one to two Sundays a month.

Commissioner Meister asked about the current capacity of the establishment. Mr. Boeyen stated they have the capacity of a retail store where people come and go. He explained their capacity would be adjusted depending on approval.

Commissioner Meister asked whether tables and chairs would be added to the facility. Mr. Boeyen stated that had an area for people to sit during wine classes. He explained there was an event area in the back where they would setup audio-visual equipment to allow smaller, sustainably farmed winemakers to virtually interact with customers through Zoom.

Commissioner Meister asked if the pouring machine was self-serve or operated by a person. Mr. Boeyen stated that staff monitor the machine and changed the wine options; however, the machine had three pre-determined calibrated pour options that operated based on a card reader. He explained how patrons could add funds to a card, select a wine and the desired ounces from the options, and the card would be reduced by the fee associated to the wine pour.

Commissioner Meister asked whether staff were BASSET certified. Mrs. Boeyen stated that they were BASSET certified. She also shared that rules and regulations were posted next to the pouring machine, and that it only allows the exact pours as predetermined and calibrated.

She noted they only offered tasting samples on Saturdays from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Mr. Boeyen reiterated that the machine would shut off once the limit was reached.

Commissioner Meister asked whether the limit would be increased to five ounces once the license was approved and if credit cards would be on file, similar to Pour Brothers. Mrs. Boeyen stated the machine could be programmed per ounce or to certain dollar amounts but could not be programmed over five ounces. Mr. Boeyen reiterated they had no interest in operating a bar but sought the license to accommodate customer requests during wine tastings. Mrs. Boeyen mentioned the focus on education with serving hours dependent on classes, but that they do not intend to have classes past 7:00 PM.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked whether food would be served. Mr. Boeyen stated that per Mrs. Foutch from the McLean County Health Department, they could serve packaged goods that did not require refrigeration. He shared that they want to respond and continue to evolve based on the community's needs. Mrs. Boeyen stated they currently sold some prepackaged items and planned to expand those offerings, but none would require food handling. She reiterated that they have no interest in operating like a bar/restaurant or doing food handling.

Chris McAllister, Building Official, reminded the licensee that any alterations of the space would require appropriate building permits. Mr. Boeyen stated they had been working with Tentac Enterprises, Landlord, for measurements and the future project. Mrs. Boeyen stated they would apply for necessary permits once plans were finalized.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to speak for or against the application. No one spoke up.

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the Public Hearing at 4:27 p.m.

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

Commissioner Mwilambwe directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Mwilambwe; Meister

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 6.D. Continued Appearance on a Citation Issued to JL Palma, LLC, d/b/a Venue 309, located at 1611 Morrissey Dr. Unit 2, for Violating Chapter 6, Section 102A of the Bloomington City Code Relating to Sale of Alcohol Without a License and Chapter 6, Section 102 of the Bloomington City Code Relating to Failure to Seek Approval or Notify Regarding Change of Ownership.

Mr. Boyle provided an update on the Item, noting there had been negotiations for a settlement which was expected to be presented at or before the October 8, 2024 Liquor Commission meeting.

New Business

No New Business was discussed.

Adjournment

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

Commissioner Mwilambwe directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Mwilambwe; Meister

Motion carried (viva voce).

The Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Mboka Mwilambwe, Commissioner



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

