



MINUTES
LIQUOR COMMISSION - REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024, 4:00 PM

The Liquor Commission convened in regular session at 4:00 p.m., August 13, 2024. Commissioner Mwilambwe called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Lindsey Meister	Commissioner	Absent
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

Commissioner Mwilambwe read a public comment statement of procedure. Daryl Johnson registered to speak but was not present. Dylan Cote provided in-person public comment. No 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 Mwilambwe approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 4.A. Consideration and Action on Approving the Minutes of the July 9, 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. Second 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.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, provided an update on the Item and stated that negotiations were ongoing. He recommended continuing the Item to the September 10, 2024, Liquor Commission meeting and stated the business would be notified.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. First Appearance on a Citation Issued to MCO QSR, Inc., d/b/a Froth & Fork, located at 712 S. Eldorado Rd., for Violating Chapter 6, Section 26(A) of the Bloomington City Code Relating to Unlawful Sale of Liquor.

Mr. Boyle provided an update on the Item and noted the failure of a compliance check executed by the Bloomington Police Department on June 26, 2024. He reported that the violation was the establishment's fourth sale to a minor in the past year and noted the \$500 fine was paid. He informed the Commission that the next violation would result in a suspension or revocation of license.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C. First Appearance on a Citation Issued to GS Partners, Inc., d/b/a Ride the Nine/Shooters Lounge, located at 503 N. Prospect Rd, Suite 300, for Violating Chapter 6, Section 27(A) of the Bloomington City Code Relating to Allowing Underage Persons to Enter Premises.

Mr. Boyle provided an update on the Item and noted the failure of a compliance check executed by the Bloomington Police Department on June 26, 2024. He reported the two violations included allowing a minor in the premises and the sale of alcohol a minor. He noted the \$1000 fine was paid.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.D. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Amending the Bloomington City Code Chapters 6 (Alcoholic Beverages) and 7 (Amusements) Pertaining to Licenses Administered by the City Clerk.

Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, addressed the Commission and presented the proposed Code changes which included minor clean up and clarification language as well as new liquor license classifications. She stated that BYOB 1 (Bring Your Own Bottle) would be for restaurants and would require a meal to be served to the guest(s) who brought alcohol. She explained that BYOB 2 would be for non-restaurants for complimentary alcohol service in conjunction with a service, purchase, or consumption of a good/service. She shared that the classifications mimic those of other municipalities, such as Champaign, who had success with the implementation.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked whether either BYOB license would have a corking fee. Mrs. Yocum stated that a corking fee was not required, however, they may uncork, pour, or serve what was brought in.

Mr. Boyle asked whether Merlot and a Masterpiece would be an example of BYOB 2. Mrs. Yocum confirmed that business would be an example of BYOB 2.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked whether there was interest in the license. Mrs. Yocum explained there had been regular interest over the years. She stated the new license types would provide more structure and protection for businesses and noted there would be lower application fees to encourage business participation. Mrs. Yocum shared that BYOB 1 application fee would be \$250/year and BYOB 2 would be \$100/year.

Mrs. Yocum went on to explain the creation of Class PAP (Packaged Sales, All Types of Alcohol, On/Off Premise) liquor license. She stated there were some grocery stores that would fit into the new classification.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked about the license fees and transfer procedures. Mrs. Yocum stated staff would work with applicable businesses to administratively transfer to the new classification during the annual license renewal period and license fees were dependent on the license type.

Mrs. Yocum discussed how the Retail Grocery Convenience Store Packaging All Types of Alcohol (Class GPA) and Retail Grocery Convenience Store Packaging Beer and Wine (Class GPB) classifications would change to Gas Station Grocery Convenience Store All Types and Gas Station Grocery Convenience Store Beer and Wine for additional clarity. She went on to explain the definition requirements. Mrs. Yocum then discussed an update to the definition of *Entertainment Venues* to include sports facilities. Mr. Boyle noted how the changes would include more recreation/entertainment facilities such as bowling alleys.

Mrs. Yocum discussed the proposed fees for the Class PAP would be a \$2200 and the Class PBP would be \$1200.

Grant Jones, Midwest Gaming Representative, asked the Commission if he could speak. Commissioner Mwilambwe agreed. Mr. Cote asked if the Class PAP license could include liquor stores, mentioned businesses in Macomb, and asked for a clearer definition of the PAP license.

Mrs. Yocum addressed his questions by stating that liquor stores would not be included and that the license would be for establishments where packaged and prepared food were the primary source of at least 51% of revenue. She stated Hy-Vee could be an example.

Commissioner Mwilambwe and Mr. Boyle stated the license definition needed more detail to clarify terms regarding grocery establishments.

Mrs. Yocum noted that video gaming would continue to be prohibited at establishments with a Class PAP or PBP liquor license. She requested to implement the addition of the term "grocery establishments" as soon as possible due to upcoming license renewals.

Commissioner Mwilambwe reiterated his desire to update the terms/definitions of the license classification.

Commissioner Mwilambwe positively recommended the Item to Council with the addition of grocery establishments in the definitions of the Class PAP and Class PBP liquor licenses.

New Business

No New Business was discussed.

Adjournment

Commissioner Mwilambwe adjourned the meeting.

The Meeting Adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Mboka Mwilambwe, Commissioner



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

