



MINUTES
LIQUOR COMMISSION - REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022, 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, August 9, 2022. 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	
Ken Bays	Assistant Police Chief	Absent	
Chris McAllister	Building Official	Absent	
Catherine Dunlap	Downtown Development Specialist	Present	
Sahara Williams	Asst. to Deputy City Clerk	Present	

Public Comment

Kathleen Spawn provided emailed public comment. No in-person 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 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 4.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the July 12, 2022, Regular Liquor Commission Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Commissioner Mwilambwe directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Meister, Mwilambwe

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 5.A. Continued Sanctions Review Hearing on Violation #2022-014 issued to Bill Hill, Inc. d/b/a Maguire's, located at 220 N. Center St., for violating Section 37(e)(12) of Chapter 6 of the Bloomington City Code relating to past due food and beverage taxes, as requested by the Legal Department.

George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, stated that the case was settled with an admission of failure to pay taxes, and that the payment had been received for the fine of \$1,000. He added that there had been an internal accounting error that had been resolved. No further action was required.

Item 5.B. Public Hearing and action on an Application from B FORE, LLC, d/b/a X-Golf Bloomington, to be located at 1407 N. Veterans Pkwy, Units 2 and 3, 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 4:04 pm.

Robert Bibeau, 33% Member of B FORE, LLC, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. He stated they were in the process of opening X-Golf, a rental golf simulation with a sports bar atmosphere. He added customers would have the opportunity to play on different courses across the world while they enjoyed food and beverages.

Blake Favero, 33% Member of B FORE, LLC, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. He added that the establishment was part of a franchise with 70 locations. He discussed how participants could join an X-Golf league or a tournament that included prizes and play with friends at any of the other locations. He explained that the establishment's focus would mainly be a golf simulation establishment where food and drinks would be offered.

George Boyle asked both representatives to state their names and their position with the organization. Robert Bibeau, 33% Member of B FORE, LLC, and Blake Favero, 33% Member of B FORE, LLC, confirmed. Mr. Bibeau stated the 33% Member of B FORE, LLC was unable to attend.

Mayor Mwilambwe asked if either Member had management responsibilities. Mr. Bibeau stated each would manage in some form. He explained that Mr. Favero would be more hands on compared to the other two Members. He stated the establishment was approximately 120 days out from opening, but that they would begin the hiring process closer to their opening date of December 1. He added they planned to seek a local General Manager from McLean County.

Commissioner Meister referenced their floor plan and asked what their anticipated capacity would be. Mr. Bibeau stated he was unsure at that time. Commissioner Meister asked if people would rent out the bays. Mr. Bibeau confirmed and noted that each bay would hold four people at a time.

Mr. Favero added that there could be six people max at a bay with seven bays in total. He explained that there would also be 20 barstools in the bar area.

Commissioner Meister asked the hours of operation. Mr. Bibeau stated they would be open seven days a week, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. on weekends. Mr. Favero stated that during the week it would be roughly 9:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. until midnight.

Commissioner Meister asked if the establishment would be open to all ages. Mr. Bibeau stated it was 21 and over. Mr. Favero corrected Mr. Bibeau's statement in that it

would be open for all ages, but that at a certain point it would be 21 and over. He added they plan to run clinics for younger kids and high school camps during the wintertime.

Commissioner Meister asked if staff would be BASSET trained. Mr. Favero stated that all staff, managers and managing Members would be BASSET trained.

Commissioner Meister asked if there was a distinction between people under and over 21 since it was all ages. Mr. Bibeau stated they had not finalized their process yet, but that they would have something in place such as a wristband to distinguish those of drinking age.

George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Council, asked if there would be food served at the establishment. Mr. Bibeau stated they would offer food such as salad, handhelds, and sandwiches. He added that a mock menu was provided with the application documents.

Mr. Boyle asked if anyone connected to the establishment had any experience with a business that served alcohol. Mr. Favero stated he previously bartended at a Tequileria, an airport bar in the Tampa International Airport, for three years. He added that he had also managed at Frenchy's Rockaway Grill in Clearwater, FL and bartended and managed the Rustic Inn, a local bar in Wilmington, IL.

Mr. Boyle stated that Legal had no further questions or concerns.

Commissioner Mwilambwe recommended the managing Members pay close attention to minors present as well as having the appropriate staff in regard to capacity.

Commissioner Mwilambwe confirmed with Mr. Boyle that the Assistant Police Chief did not have any concerns. Mr. Boyle confirmed that was his understanding.

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

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the Public Hearing at 4:16 pm.

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.

Mr. Bibeau confirmed with Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk, that their application would appear on the September 12, 2022, City Council Meeting.

Old Business

No Old Business was discussed.

New Business

Commissioner Meister stated that she had a business reach out to her and asked about Bring-Your-Own-Booze ("BYOB"). She asked Mr. Boyle for clarification on the City's stance on BYOB. Mr. Boyle stated that he would provide a more thorough response for next month but, that the City does not regulate BYOB. He stated that it fell to the State's regulations. He explained the items that staff considered for licensure and he recommended business owners be cautious.

Commissioner Meister reflected on a specific incident when Downtown businesses served free alcohol samples. She then discussed individuals bringing alcohol for a picnic at the Shakespeare Festival and an event at Green Top Grocery where the business told patrons they couldn't bring alcohol. Mr. Boyle stated that BYOB was problematic for license holders in that the City ordinances specified regulations on free alcohol. He noted that every few years, BOYB licensure was considered.

Commissioner Meister discussed a situation at a nail salon where she was given an alcoholic beverage for free as part of her service. Mr. Boyle explained that the City does not regulate BYOB but that the State of Illinois did.

Commissioners Meister and Mwilambwe reiterated their interest in additional information. Mr. Boyle noted the potential benefits of licensure and stated that staff could review BYOB licensure at other municipalities.

Christopher McAllister, Building Official, noted that serving of alcohol was a consideration within the building code. He explained that it could change the occupancy classification of the space and provided a few examples of such situations.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was discussed.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried unanimously (Viva Voce).

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Mboka Mwilambwe, Liquor Commissioner

ATTEST



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk