



MINUTES
REGULAR LIQUOR COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021, 4:00 P.M.

The Commission convened in the Government Center Chambers, 115 E. Washington Street, Room #400, at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Mboka Mwilambwe.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mboka Mwilambwe	Mayor	Present	
Lindsey Meister	Board Member	Present	
Jim Jordan	Board Member	Absent	

Staff Advisors

Staff Present	Title	Status	Arrived
Amanda Mohan	Deputy City Clerk	Present	
George Boyle	Asst. Corporation Counsel	Present	
Timothy McCoy	Assistant Police Chief	Present	
Catherine Dunlap	Downtown Development Specialist	Present	

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 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 the Commission 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.

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

AYES: Mwilambwe, Meister

Motion carried.

Item 4.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the June 8, 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. Consideration and action on the Request from Castle Productions, LLC, d/b/a The Castle Theatre allow the public sale and consumption of alcohol at four Special Events scheduled to take place in Downtown Bloomington, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, described the previous procedure for event coordinators to request alcohol at Special Events. He explained that to expedite the process, Council recently approved an ordinance that removed Council approval and delegated that authority to the Liquor Commission. He noted that repeat annual or semi-annual events were able to be approved solely by the Liquor Commissioner. He also defined repeat events.

Commissioner Mwilambwe opened the public hearing at 4:02 p.m.

Rory O'Connor, Owner of The Castle Theater, after being sworn, addressed the Commission.

Mr. O'Connor explained he partnered with the City of Bloomington and The Pantagraph for a four-part concert series named "Saturdays on the Square" and would have different touring bands for each event. He stated that the concerts would be from 6:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. and the shows were free and open to the public. He explained that while there was no proposed fencing, there would be barriers to block off roads with security to ensure alcohol does not leave nor that outside alcohol was brought in. Mr. O'Connor stated that attendees would receive a labeled wristband with 'Castle' on it to distinguish individuals 21 years of age or older. He then explained the two-part alcohol purchase system where attendees would be carded at a drink ticket station, pay, and receive their wristband. The attendees would then go to the bar to receive their beverage. Mr. O'Connor stated that the bands were nationally touring bands and hoped they would have up to 2,000 attendees to help the community to celebrate post-COVID.

Commissioner Meister asked if all servers would be basset trained. Mr. O'Connor confirmed that all bartenders would be Castle Theater staff who were BASSET certified and that he would ensure recertification, if necessary.

Commissioner Meister asked for confirmation of the area of consumption. Mr. O'Connor confirmed that area on the map included the area closed to traffic, but that alcohol consumption would be restricted to the corner of Center St. and Jefferson St.

Commissioner Meister asked for confirmation of the hours of consumption. Mr. O'Connor confirmed alcohol would be served from 6:00 p.m. until 10:45 p.m.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked number of staff to serve. Mr. O'Connor responded that he anticipated 7-8 bartenders. He noted that he sought to streamline the beverage

options to canned beverages. He went on to explain that The Pantagraph had a VIP section which would be separately staffed by one bartender and would offer a slightly more expanded beverage list such as a vodka lemonade or margarita.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if there was a rain date. Mr. O'Connor explained that due to the active tours of the bands, rain dates would not be an option.

Mr. Boyle confirmed the event were free. Mr. O'Connor confirmed.

Mr. Boyle asked for a confirmation of the number of attendees. Mr. O'Connor stated with free events, it was more difficult to predict but believed the concert on August 14th would be the most popular with 2,000-2,500 attendees with 1,000-1,500 for the remaining dates.

Commissioner Meister compared the concert series to the WGLT concert series held in the past.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if the event was ticketed. Mr. O'Conner reiterated that they would be non-ticketed events.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if there was anyone to speak for or against the application. No individuals registered to speak in-person and no emailed public comment was received.

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the public hearing at 4:14 p.m.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe, that the Request to allow the public sale and consumption of alcohol during the events be approved.

Mayor 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.B. Continued Sanctions Review Hearing on Violation #2021-003 issued to Hurley Consolidated Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Drifters, located at 612 N. Main St., as requested by the Legal Department.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked George Boyle, Assistant Corporate Counsel, for an update on the item.

Mr. Boyle described the timeline and provided an overview of the multiple portions of the Agreed Order for failure to pay food and beverage taxes and assessed fines. He explained that the first portion of the Agreed Order for a fine was complied with. He explained that at the previous hearing, the Commission was told of a potential deal to purchase the establishment, but the deal has since fell through. He was contacted by the president of the now-defunct Hurley Consolidated Enterprises, LLC and they have surrendered their liquor license and were no longer operating. He stated that it concluded the license enforcement action.

Commissioner Mwilambwe confirmed with Mr. Boyle that no further action by the

Commission was required. Mr. Boyle confirmed.

Old Business

No Old Business was discussed.

New Business

Item 7.A. Update to Procedure: Suspension of Portions of Chapter 6 of the Bloomington City Code that Prohibit Possession of Open Alcohol in Public for Special Events, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Mwilambwe confirmed with George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, that this item was informational.

Mr. Boyle confirmed and explained that it was placed on the agenda to inform the Commission but that he explained the ordinance before consideration of The Castle's request. He asked Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk, for any additional information.

Mrs. Stutsman explained the item was informational and that the ordinance was provided to the Commission as an attachment to The Castle Theater's item as well as under this section. She echoed earlier statements that the ordinance would streamline the process.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mwilambwe, that the item be approved as presented.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amanda Stutsman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amanda" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Stutsman".

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk