



MINUTES
REGULAR LIQUOR COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

The Commission convened in Regular Session in the Government Center Chambers, at 115 E. Washington Street at 4:04 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, 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	Present	
Chris McAllister	Building Official	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 public comment was received in-person or via email.

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.

Council Member Meister made a motion, seconded by Council Member 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 April 12, 2022, Regular Liquor Commission Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

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 Brats and Bags fundraiser to be held in Downtown Bloomington on Friday, August 5, 2022, for a Class LB (Limited/Beer and Wine) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Meister recused herself at 4:06 p.m. as a member of the Rotary.

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

Kristen Kubsch, a Member of the Bloomington Normal Sunrise Rotary (“the Rotary”) and Co-Chair of the Brats and Bags event, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. She explained that the event was an annual fundraiser with a brat lunch planned from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and a bags tournament in the evening where they would sell beer and wine. She noted that the Rotary worked with Downtown Development to host their event as part of a First Friday event on The Square in Downtown Bloomington.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked how many years the Rotary had held the event in Downtown Bloomington. Ms. Kubsch confirmed the Rotary had held the annual fundraiser for at least six years.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if serving staff would be BASSET trained. Ms. Kubsch confirmed and elaborated that IDs would be checked and wristbands would be issued.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked the expected number of attendees and the number of workers. Ms. Kubsch responded that the Rotary expected about 200-300 attendees with half a dozen staff members.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked how staff would monitor drinking age. Ms. Kubsch responded that the event was not limited to individuals 21 years of age or older and so staff would check IDs and issue wristbands to those of age.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked what receptacles beverages would be served in. Ms. Kubsch responded that they would be in cups. Commissioner Mwilambwe followed up by asking if glass cups would be used. Mrs. Kubsch confirmed that only plastic cups would be used per the Special Event Permit.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if staff had any questions or concerns.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, stated that the Legal Department had none.

Catherine Dunlap, Downtown Development Specialist with Economic and Community Development Department, stated that she wanted to confirm that the Rotary would have enough volunteers to ensure no one entered or exited with alcohol. Ms. Kubsch acknowledged the concern and confirmed that they would have enough volunteers.

Mr. Boyle stated for the record that the Legal Department had no previous issues with the event. Commissioner Mwilambwe stated that was his understanding as well.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if there was anyone present to speak for or against the application. No one stepped forward.

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

Mr. Boyle advised that, as the only Commissioner present, Commissioner Mwilambwe could approve the request without a second.

Commissioner Mwilambwe moved to send the application with a positive recommendation to the City Council.

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

AYES: Mwilambwe

Motion carried.

Commissioner Meister returned at 4:10 p.m.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Consideration and action on the Request from Castle Productions, LLC, d/b/a The Castle Theatre, for approval to operate under the Chapter 6, Section 133(D)(6) of the Bloomington City Code that permits Possession of Open Alcohol in Public for the 2022 Saturdays on the Square Concerts to be held in Portions of Downtown Bloomington on June 25, July 9, July 16, and August 6, 2022, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Mwilambwe opened the Public Hearing at 4:13 p.m.

No representative from the establishment was present.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked Catherine Dunlap, Downtown Development Specialist with Economic and Community Development Department, to discuss the event in the owner's absence. Mrs. Dunlap stated that this was the second year that The Castle would partner with the Pantagraph and the City of Bloomington to have four concerts on June 24, July 9, July 19, and August 6. She explained the specific location of the events around The Square in Downtown Bloomington. She noted that The Castle would provide one alcohol tent with the stage set up on the corner of Jefferson and Main Streets.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked the outcome of the events last year.

Mrs. Dunlap reported that the events ran well, with Mississippi All Stars headlining the biggest concert. She stated that The Castle planned to target regional talent this year and anticipated increased numbers. She confirmed that The Castle staff were BASSET trained and would have security guards at all of the entrances.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked the number of attendees at last year's concerts. Mrs. Dunlap reported that staff tracked the numbers and attendance was as follows: first concert - 2,800; second concert - 2,600; third concert - 6,500; and fourth concert - 3,800.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, asked if the concerts were free. Mrs. Dunlap confirmed that they were.

Commissioner Meister asked if the applicant was requesting just beer and wine or all types of alcohol. Mrs. Dunlap stated that The Castle had requested all types of alcohol and that last year, they had premade margaritas available.

Commissioner Meister confirmed with Mrs. Dunlap that wristbands would be used.

Commissioner Meister asked if there were any issues last year. Mrs. Dunlap stated that she checked with the Fire and Police Departments who confirmed there were no incidents.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, stated that the Legal Department had no concerns at that time.

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk, confirmed that the application before the Commission was for all types of alcohol.

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the Public Hearing at 4:18 p.m.

Council Member Meister made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mwilambwe, to approve the request.

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. Consideration and action on the Request from WGLT, whose 20th Anniversary Celebration of the WGLT Summer Concert presented by CEFCU Bank will be held in Downtown Bloomington, on Saturday, June 18, 2022, to allow for the service of beer and wine for their event by a licensed provider(s), as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Mwilambwe recused himself at 4:17 p.m. as he was employed by Illinois State University where WGLT was headed.

Commissioner Meister opened the Public Hearing at 4:17 p.m.

Melissa Libert, WGLT Development Director, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. She stated that they were looking for approval to serve alcohol for their event and Keg Grove Brewery would provide the beer. She explained that they were still looking for a wine provider as their first choice, Mystic Kitchen, was unable to assist due to local staffing shortage. She stated that they expected attendance to be approximately 5,000. Ms. Libert reported that they would have private security for the event with a tent for ID checks and to issue wristbands. She noted that there would be a separate bar tent from the wristband tent.

Commissioner Meister asked if all staff would be BASSET trained including the Keg Grove Brewery staff. Ms. Libert stated that WGLT staff would not be BASSET trained as they would not be serving alcohol. She confirmed that alcohol would be served from the businesses they partnered with.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, had no questions and stated that the Legal Department had no issues with the event in the past.

Catherine Dunlap, Downtown Development Specialist with Economic and Community Development Department, stated that due to outdoor dining, the floor plan would be set up exactly like the Saturdays on the Square events, which was a change from previous years.

Commissioner Meister asked if there was anyone present that wanted to speak for or against the application. No one came forward.

Commissioner Meister and Mr. Boyle discussed procedure of a motion with only one Commissioner present.

Commissioner Meister closed the Public Hearing at 4:19 p.m.

Commissioner Meister approved the request for City Council.

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

AYES: Meister

Motion carried.

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk, stated that the application did not need to go before Council and explained that the application qualified as a special event that the Liquor Commission had the authority to approve.

Commissioner Mwilambwe returned at 4:20 p.m.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.D. Consideration and action on the Request from The 236 Group, LLC, d/b/a The Stable Music Hall and Lounge, for approval to operate under the Chapter 6, Section 133(D)(6) of the Bloomington City Code that permits Possession of Open Alcohol in Public for the 2022 Prairie Street Concerts Series to be held in Portions of Downtown Bloomington on June 24, July 7, July 8, July 15, August 12, August 19, September 16, and September 23, 2022, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Mwilambwe opened the Public Hearing 4:22 p.m.

Nicholas Leroy, Owner of The Stable Music Hall and Lounge, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. He explained that he planned to have a new ticketed concert series to be held near their establishment. He stated that they would bring in a stage, lights, sound, and production. He explained that the premises would be fenced off for security with an entrance on corner of Front St. and Prairie St. and all attendees would be carded and issued wristbands. Mr. Leroy stated that security guards would be on all corners, behind stage and at entrances. He went on to explain that the back of the stage would be parallel to the alley. He planned to have one beer truck and one food truck per event with porta johns and picnic tables at each event.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked the anticipated number of attendees. Mr. Leroy reported that he had capacity for 1,100 and planned to target talent that could sellout that size of event. He stated that he anticipated to sell an accumulative total of 7,000 tickets for all events total which would result in over \$1 million impact to the City.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked if all staff would be BASSET trained. Mr. Leroy stated that all of his staff and any supplemental staff would be BASSET trained.

Commissioner Meister asked the hours of the events. Mr. Leroy stated that the gates would open at 5:00 p.m. with music to start at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at 10:00 p.m.

Commissioner Mwilambwe asked when alcohol service would stop. Mr. Leroy responded that bands and outdoor alcohol would end at 10:00 p.m., but that there would be an after party inside bar.

Commissioner Meister asked the target age range of the attendees. Mr. Leroy stated the events were for individuals aged 21 years of age or older.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, had no comments for the layout. He noted that this was the first year for the event. He stated that there was a minor in a tavern violation that was set for later in the agenda but that it was paid as of that afternoon. He went on to state that there was also a non-payment of taxes for three months but that staff were working with the applicant. Mr. Leroy informed the Commission that he was working with his accountant to assess the situation and assured the Commission that it would never happen again.

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the Public Hearing at 4:26 p.m.

Council Member Meister made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mwilambwe, to approve the request.

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. Consideration and action on an Application from Brickyard Barrel House, LLC, d/b/a Barrel House, to be located at 9 Brickyard Dr., requesting a Class RAPS (Restaurant, All Types of Alcohol, Packaged and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Mwilambwe opened the Public Hearing at 4:29 p.m.

Raymond Ceresa, Representative of Tentac Enterprises, LLC, and the Barrel House, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. He explained that the chain was a newer concept out of the quad cities where there were five locations. He informed the Commission that it would occupy the old TGI Friday's space at the Double Tree Hotel, who closed as a victim of COVID-19. He explained that they had attempted to rent out the restaurant space and had contacted over 260 national franchises including Barrel House, who was interested but, ultimately choose not to move forward. As a result, they purchased a Barrel House franchise which would be the first franchisee of the Barrel House. Mr. Ceresa stated that the

majority of sales would be food and that the slogan was “Food that lifts your spirits.” He noted the intent to have a fenced in outdoor dining area that spanned a significant portion of the front of building. Mr. Ceresa informed the Commission that the Barrel House would have an indoor seating capacity of 250.

Commissioner Meister asked if all staff would be BASSET trained. Mr. Ceresa stated that all staff would be BASSET trained.

Commissioner Meister asked the hours of operation. Mr. Ceresa stated that hours were not finalized, and they would consult their franchise for direction. He noted that they were interested in initially opening at 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. and closing at 10:00 p.m. or 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and midnight Friday and Saturday. He explained that breakfast was currently offered by the Barrel House franchise but that there was a potential to add it as it could be profitable with the hotel.

Commissioner Mwilambwe closed the Public Hearing at 4:34 p.m.

Council Member Meister made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mwilambwe, to send the application with a positive recommendation to the City Council.

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.F. Consideration and action on the second Appearance for Violation Citation of The 236 Group, LLC, d/b/a The Stable Music Hall & Lounge, located at 236 E. Front St., for Violating Section 26(a) of Chapter 6 of the Bloomington City Code relating to the sale of alcoholic liquor to a minor, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, provided an update on the item. He explained that there was a violation for a minor in a tavern last month along with other several non-compliance that came before the commission last month. He noted that it was agreed the two installments would be paid however, it had not been as of when the agenda was published and therefore it was placed on the agenda. He stated that the fine was paid today and therefore, the matter is settled.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.G. Consideration and action on the second Appearance for Violation Citation of 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 City Clerk Department.

George Boyle provided an update. He stated that there was no representative present. He went on to explain that there was an admission to the violation with an agreement to pay the fine in two installments with the first installment of \$1,000 was paid and the second installment was to be paid by the date of the hearing. The payment was not received as of 4:00 p.m. Mr. Boyle reported that the second installment had not been received but believed there may have been a notice issue with the establishment. He stated for that reason, he requested that the item be continued to the June 14, 2022, Liquor Commission meeting.

Commissioner Mwilambwe continued the item to the June 14, 2022, Liquor Commission meeting.

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 4:36 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Mboka Mwilambwe, Liquor Commissioner

ATTEST



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk