MINUTES OF THE BLOOMINGTON
LIQUOR COMMISSION
February 9, 2016

1. **Call to order**

   The regular meeting of the Liquor Commission was called to order by Commissioner Renner at 4:02 p.m. on February 9, 2016.

2. **Roll Call**

   Tari Renner, and Jim Jordan, Geoffrey Tompkins Commissioners, George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, Asst. Chief Clay Wheeler, and Renee Gooderham, Chief Deputy Clerk.

3. **Public Comment**

   No one came forward to address the Commission.

   The following was presented:

4. **Consideration of approving the Commission minutes of January 12, 2016.**

   Motion by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of January 12, 2016.

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

   Ayes: Commissioners Jordan, Tompkins and Renner.

   Nays: None.

   Motion carried.

   The following was presented:

5. **Consideration of the request from Dan Riddle and Rachel Daugherty to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their May 7, 2016 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.**

   Dan Riddle, groom and Rachel Daugherty, bride addressed the Commission. Mr. Riddle stated that Lake Rd. Inn in Hudson would cater the reception. Beer and wine only would be served. Approximately 100 guests were anticipated.

Motion by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to recommend at the March 14, 2016 City Council meeting approval of the request from Dan Riddle and Rachel Daugherty to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their May 7, 2016 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Commissioner Renner encouraged Mr. Riddle and Ms. Daugherty to attend the City Council meeting on March 14, 2016.

The following was presented:

6. **Consideration of the request from Keith Monkman and Stefanie Loafman to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their May 20, 2016 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.**

Stefanie Loafman, bride addressed the Commission. She stated that Times Past Inn would cater the reception. Beer and wine only would be served. Approximately 130 guests were anticipated.

Motion by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to recommend at the March 14, 2016 City Council meeting approval of the request from Keith Monkman and Stefanie Loafman to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their May 20, 2016 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Commissioner Renner encouraged Ms. Loafman to attend the City Council meeting on March 14, 2016.

The following was presented:

7. **Consideration of the request from Jeremy Hardman and Melissa Day to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their June 4, 2016 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.**

Jeremy Hardman, groom and Melissa Day, bride addressed the Commission. HyVee would cater the reception. Beer and wine only would be served. Approximately seventy (70) guests were anticipated.

Motion by Commissioner Tompkins, seconded by Commissioner Jordan to recommend at the March 14, 2016 City Council meeting approval of the request from Jeremy Hardman and Melissa Day to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their June 4, 2016 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Commissioner Renner encouraged Mr. Hardman and Ms. Day to attend the City Council meeting on March 14, 2016.

The following was presented:

8. **Consideration of the request from James Bowers and Jennifer McDade to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their May 29, 2016 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.**

James Bowers, groom addressed the Commission. He stated that HyVee would cater the reception. Beer and wine only would be served. Approximately 120 guests were anticipated.

Motion by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to recommend at the March 14 2016 City Council meeting approval of the request from James Bowers and Jennifer McDade to allow moderate consumption of alcohol at their May 29, 2016 wedding reception to be held at Davis Lodge.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Commissioner Renner encouraged Mr. Bowers to attend the City Council meeting on March 14, 2016.

The following was presented:

9. **Consideration of a resignation of an Officer position from HOA Restaurant Holder, LLC, d/b/a Hooters of Bloomington, located at 409 N Hershey Rd, currently holding an RAS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week. Changes are: Matthew Wickesberg resigned.**

Commissioner Renner questioned the requirement for a motion. George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, stated none was required.

Commissioner Renner instructed the Clerk to address the appropriate letter to the State of Illinois Liquor Control Commission acknowledging same.

The following was presented:

10. **Notification of Violation Payment from Ralben, Inc., d/b/a Bonkers Place, located at 1507 S Main St, currently holding a TAPS liquor license which allows the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises and the sale of all types packaged alcohol for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week.**

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel addressed the Commission. He stated that the violation occurred during the Police Departments' monthly compliance check. This was a first (1st) offense for the establishment. Settlement was agreed upon in the amount of $600.

11. Notification of Violation Payment from Freedom Oil Company, d/b/a Freedom Oil #21, located at 1801 S Veterans Parkway, currently holding a GPBS liquor license which allows the sale of packaged beer and wine only for consumption off the premises seven (7) days a week.

George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel addressed the Commission. He stated that the violation occurred during the Police Departments' monthly compliance check. This was a first (1st) offense for the establishment. Settlement was agreed upon in the amount of $600.

12. Public Hearing to discuss Liquor License Increases and Video Gaming Fees.

The Public Hearing to discuss liquor license increases and video gaming fees was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

Commissioner Renner requested ideas, suggestions and recommendations. The meeting was to hear from those present. The Liquor Commission would consider proposals/options from the tonight's public hearing. Recommendations from tonight along with those from the upcoming March 8, 2016 Liquor Commission meeting would be presented to the City Council.

Commissioner Renner noted that the hearing was pursuant to the Budget Task Force (BTF) recommendations. Costs were increasing approximately two percent (2%) per year and revenue was flat. The majority of the City's budget consists of public safety; Police, Fire and Public Works. The remainder was Parks Recreations and Cultural Arts and user fees examination.

Liquor fees were last increase in 1982. Liquor enforcement had increased. The suggestion was cost recovery with incremental increases over a few years. He noted that most metro city's charged for video gaming.

Phil Boulds, owner/operator, Mugsy's Pub, located at 1310 N. Main St., addressed the Commission. Mr. Boulds cited the Citizens Summit held on January 20, 2015. He did not remember citizen recommendation for increased liquor fees or establishing video gaming fees. He believed the City received five percent (5%) from video gaming. He questioned other companies/industry receiving same. He cited the food and beverage tax, the local motor fuel tax (MFT), the entertainment and the new one percent (1%) sales tax. He suggested the one percent (1%) tax cover liquor enforcement. He questioned the need for more taxes and fee increases.

Commissioner Renner stated that in Fiscal Year 2015 MFT and entertainment combine was two percent (2%) of the budget which was equaled budget increases. He noted that one quarter (¼) each of the new one percent (1%) tax increase was designated to McLean County and to Public Works for street repairs. Fifty percent (50%) of same was designated for the General Fund.

No one else came forward to address the Commission. Commissioner Renner closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Renner welcomed ideas, suggestions and/or recommendations at any Mayoral Open House. He noted that the City Council had the authority to increase fees.

Commissioner Jordan stated he would favor a justified liquor fee increase. He recommended that same was prorated over a few years. He referred to the Illinois Gaming Board report. He believed gaming fees were should remain competitive. There should be a compromise as to the fair and equitable fee.

Commissioner Renner stated that the City Council had concerns with the number of establishments offering video gaming. He noted that the amount played was $180 million.

Commissioner Jordan stated that the vendor and licensee split 34.7% of the $180 million. He believed there were only so many gambling dollars available. Establishments had little overhead costs involved with video gaming.

Bill Flessner, Gaming Operator, Midwest Electronics, addressed the Commission. He clarified that the $180 million includes the house dollars. A customer out of pocket was $54 million. He cited the following example: a customer places a $20 wager and wins $20 (house dollars), then lets that ride; losing same only has $20 out of pocket. Commissioner Jordan stated that what mattered was the end of the day/end of the month/end of the year how much money is in the economy.

Commissioner Jordan stated that approximately $14 million was divided between the vendor, licensee, state and City, or $1 million per month. Mr. Flessner responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Renner stated that the BTF recommended Downtown license holders pay for the Police hire back program ($130,000). He believed same was not realistic. The hire back program benefitted the entire City. Council was examining ways for cost recovery. He did not favor a video gaming ceiling. He cited Chapter 6, Alcoholic Beverages; Section 4B Creation of New License – Findings; Item 14 "No license shall be created for, maintained by, an establishment whose primary or major focus is video gaming". Another suggestion was to raise liquor fees for those establishments who were open until 2:00 a.m. He believed same had merit. There could be a ten percent (10%) liquor license fee for year one (1) and two (2) and a video gaming fee. Discussions would continue. Any fee increases/additions would be pursuant to the BTF recommendations. He believed same would be a compromise.

Commissioner Tompkins encouraged all to review the Illinois Gaming Board website at www.igb.illinois.gov/.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to adjourn. Time: 4:34 p.m.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Gooderham
Chief Deputy Clerk