



**MINUTES  
LIQUOR COMMISSION - REGULAR SESSION  
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025, 4:00 PM**

The Liquor Commission convened in regular session at 4:00 p.m. in the Government Center Boardroom. Commissioner Brady called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Lindsey Meister	Commissioner	Absent
Dan Brady	Commissioner	Present
Sreenivas Poondru	Commissioner	Present

**Staff Advisors**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Leslie Yocum	City Clerk	Present
George Boyle	Asst. Corporation Counsel	Present
Chris McAllister	Building Official	Present
Paul Williams	Asst. Police Chief	Present

**Public Comment**

No 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 Poondru approved the Consent Agenda as presented.**

Item 4.A. Consideration and Action on Approving the Minutes of the March 11, 2025, Regular Liquor Commission Meeting. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 4.B. Consideration and Action on Approving the Minutes of the April 8, 2025, 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. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Sarahbest, Inc., d/b/a Bloomington Rosati's Pizza, located at 1704 Eastland Dr. Units 3 & 4, Requesting Approval of the Creation of a Class RBS (Restaurant, Beer & Wine Only, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License. (Recommended Motion: The Public Hearing proceeds to determine whether the Application meets liquor licensure requirements.)

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

Faizan Kanchwala, Owner/President of Sarahbest, Inc., after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Mr. Kanchwala explained that the business had been in operation since 2006 at the current location and planned to relocate to a larger space. He noted that the new location would provide more room for catering, staging, and dining. He stated that the existing location could seat 26-28 people, and that the proposed location could accommodate 36-45 patrons. He emphasized that core business operations would remain unchanged. He noted that the primary goal of the change was to support business growth with a more spacious environment.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle noted Legal had no concerns.

Commissioner Poondru asked if they anticipated transferring their video gaming license. Mr. Kanchwala answered yes and explained that he would work closely with the proper departments to facilitate the business' location change/transfer. He noted having been in ongoing communication with various City and County departments including McLean County Health Department, and that he would work cooperatively with all relevant authorities. Commissioner Poondru then asked if he had his BASSET Certification, and he answered yes.

Commissioner Brady asked for details about the proposed location. Mr. Kanchwala provided the address and explained that the new location would be near Fresh Thyme Market and the current Jack Lewis Jewelers.

Mr. Boyle clarified that the application approval would result in a permit for a license and would be contingent on approval from the Health Department and other relevant City departments. He explained that it was standard practice for license applicants to continue working with various municipal departments after initial approval to ensure full compliance with all regulatory requirements.

Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, asked if staff had any concerns. Chris McCallister, Building Official, and Asst. Police Chief Paul Williams reported no concerns.

Mr. Kanchwala highlighted his collaboration with EA Architecture and specifically mentioned architect Russ Arbuckle. He emphasized the firm's stellar reputation and mentioned the quality of professional expertise they would bring to Bloomington Rosati's relocation effort.

No one was present in the audience to speak for or against the Item.

Commissioner Brady closed the Public Hearing at 4:15 p.m.

**Commissioner Poondru made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brady, to positively recommend the Item to Council as presented.**

**Commissioner Brady directed the clerk to call roll:**

**AYES:** Brady; Poondru

**Motion carried.**

*The following item was presented:*

Item 5.B. Continued Sanctions Review on a Citation Issued to Grand Café, LLC, d/b/a Grand Café, located at 2205 E. Oakland Ave., Suite A2, for Violating Chapter 6, Section 37(e)(12) of the Bloomington City Code Relating to Failure to Pay Food and Beverage Tax. (Recommended Motion: Review compliance with Agreed Sanction Order.)

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle reviewed the sanctions against Grand Cafe involving a tax delinquency violation. He noted that the establishment had fully resolved the

issue and paid the \$800 fine in its entirety. He explained that an Agreed Order had been prepared and would be sent to the licensee for their records.

*The following item was presented:*

Item 5.C. First Appearance on a Citation Issued to Rice N Spice Indian Grill Inc., d/b/a Rice N Spice Indian Grill Inc., located at 110 W. Washington St., First Floor, for Violating Chapter 6, Section 26(a) of the Bloomington City Code Relating to Selling Alcohol to a Minor. (Recommended Motion: N/A)

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle reported on a citation issued to Rice N Spice Indian Grill following a compliance check by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission and local police. He explained that the establishment was cited for two underage sales, which would be their first violation. He noted that the Illinois Liquor Control Commission had already assessed a \$500 fine, and the restaurant additionally agreed to pay the City a \$250 fine. He stated that once the order and fine are received, the matter would be considered settled.

*The following item was presented:*

Item 5.D. First Appearance on a Citation Issued to Morrissey Firehouse Pizza, LLC, d/b/a Firehouse Pizza, located at 1601 Morrissey Dr., Ste. 2, for Violating Chapter 6, Section 26(a) of the Bloomington City Code Relating to Selling Alcohol to a Minor. (Recommended Motion: N/A)

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle discussed a citation for Firehouse Pizza related to a compliance check failure on March 14, 2025. He noted that, similar to previous cases, the establishment was fined the standard amount, which they had paid in full, and a signed order that documented the resolution had been received.

### **New Business**

No New Business was discussed.

### **Adjournment**

**Commissioner Poondru made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brady, to adjourn the meeting.**


**AYES:** Brady; Poondru

**Motion carried (viva voce).**

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

### **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

  
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Dan Brady, Commissioner

  
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Leslie Smith-Yocum, City Clerk

