



**MINUTES  
LIQUOR COMMISSION - REGULAR SESSION  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025, 4:00 PM**

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

**Roll Call**

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

**Staff Advisors**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Leslie Smith-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.*

Item 4.A. Consideration and Action on Approving the Minutes of the July 8, 2025, Regular Liquor Commission Meeting. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

**Commissioner Poondru approved the Consent Agenda as presented.**

**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 by Jayst., Inc., d/b/a Mulligans, located at 531 N. Main St., Requesting Approval of a Change in Ownership for their Class TAS (Tavern, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

Commissioner Poondru opened the Public Hearing at 4:10 p.m.

David Armstrong, attorney for the applicants, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Mr. Armstrong detailed the change in ownership request, which involved three new proposed local owners, Brad Finn, Bill Montes de Oca, and Jeff Sheets taking over for Jay Taylor, current owner, who was selling. He noted that each proposed owner has business

experience in Bloomington with backgrounds in construction, talent management, and bar management. He stated that Mr. Taylor had not planned to reopen if he closed the business, so the transfer would help prevent a vacant storefront in a key redevelopment area by allowing it to remain open. He mentioned that the new owners had completed their required Bassett certification, and only the building safety and health inspection reports remained outstanding with minor electrical issues to be addressed. He noted that Joe Whitaker, an experienced manager who had worked at the local Maguires bar in town, had been hired to run the establishment.

Commissioner Poondru asked if the owners were present at the meeting. Mr. Armstrong stated that two of the three were in attendance.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle asked if the manager was in attendance. Mr. Armstrong answered no that he had just been hired, but noted that the manager was also a McLean County resident.

Commissioner Poondru asked for details of the manager's experience. Mr. Armstrong stated that Mr. Whitaker had worked at Maguires bar for about 20 years. He also explained that Mr. Sheets, one of the proposed owners, was a former manager at the local Flinger's Pizza Pub as well.

Commissioner Poondru asked if any business operations would change, if approved including event management or live music. Mr. Armstrong answered no noting that the new ownership would likely rebrand the establishment.

Mr. Boyle asked if one of the proposed owners could provide details on what potential changes might take place.

Bill Montes de Oca, proposed owner, after being sworn, addressed the Commission.

Mr. Boyle asked Mr. Montes de Oca to provide details about any potential changes. Mr. Montes de Oca explained that they planned to keep everything the same as it had been.

Mr. Boyle asked Chris McAllister, Building Official, if he was aware of the occupancy for the establishment. Mr. McAllister explained that another inspection would be done to verify.

Commissioner Poondru asked if there was anyone in the audience present to speak for or against the item. No one came forward.

Asst. Police Chief Paul Williams asked that the applicants provide an updated list of contact information including cell phone numbers for the new owners of the business to ensure that, in the event of an emergency or serious incident, they could reach the appropriate people. Mr. Armstrong indicated that they would send the information.

Commissioner Poondru closed the Public Hearing at 4:17 p.m.

**Commissioner Poondru positively recommended the Item to Council as presented, contingent on all owners successfully passing background checks.**

*The following Item was presented:*

Item 5.B. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Nitelife Elements, LLC., d/b/a Wild Oak Social, to be located at 612 N. Main St., Requesting Approval of the Creation of a Class TAS (Tavern, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

Commissioner Poondru asked Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle to provide an update on the proposed item. Mr. Boyle explained that staff recommended the Item be continued to the September 9, 2025 Liquor Commission meeting to allow additional time to review financial

documents that were submitted just hours prior to the meeting. He shared that staff had been unable to complete a thorough review of the documents and that additional time would allow for such review. Rich Marvel, the applicant's attorney, had no objection to the continuation.

**Commissioner Poondru continued the Item to the September 9, 2025, Liquor Commission meeting.**

*The following Item was presented:*

Item 5.C. Continued Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Casper Brewing Company, LLC, located at 3803 & 3807 Ballybunion Rd., Requesting Approval of a Redefinition of Premises for their Class TBPS (Tavern, Beer & Wine Only, Package, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

Commissioner Poondru asked Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle to provide an update on the proposed Item.

Mr. Boyle explained that the agenda Item had been withdrawn by the applicant as they continued to work towards what they need to present their desired changes.

*The following Item was presented:*

Item 5.D. Continued Appearance on a Citation Issued to TVEO Corporation, d/b/a Eric's Too, Located at 921 Maple Hill Rd., for Violating Chapter 6, Section 26(a) of the Bloomington City Code Relating to Selling Alcohol to a Minor.

Asst. Corporation Counsel Boyle explained that the matter had been settled and noted that the establishment paid a \$2,000 fine and served a six-day weekend suspension on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>, and on August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. He stated that the penalties had been fulfilled, and the matter was closed.

**New Business**

No New Business was discussed.

**Adjournment**

**Commissioner Poondru adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.**

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**



*Sreenivas Poondru*

Sreenivas Poondru, Commissioner

*Leslie Smith-Yocum*

Leslie Smith-Yocum, City Clerk