



**MINUTES
LIQUOR COMMISSION - REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025, 4:00 PM**

The Liquor Commission convened in regular session at 4:00 p.m. in the Government Center 2nd Floor Conference Room #208. Commissioner Brady called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

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

Staff Advisors

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

Public Comment

Tony Woolery registered to provide public comment, but when called, opted to speak at the Public Hearing for Item 5.C.

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 Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Poondru, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 4.A. Consideration and Action on Approving the Minutes of the May 13, 2025, Regular Liquor Commission Meeting. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 4.B. Consideration and Action on Approving the Minutes of the June 10, 2025, Regular Liquor Commission Meeting. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Commissioner Brady directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru

Motion carried.

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 the City of Bloomington, d/b/a Bloomington Ice Center, to be located at 201 S. Roosevelt Ave., Requesting Approval of the Creation of a Class EBS (Entertainment, Beer & Wine Only, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

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

David Lamb, City Parks & Recreation Assistant Director, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Mr. Lamb explained that Bloomington Ice Center had been offering alcohol at ISU (Illinois State University) hockey games using Bloomington Arena's liquor license. He shared that the Ice Center would like to hold their own license since they were operated by a different City department and had their own revenue streams and storage areas for liquor.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle asked where the alcohol would be stored. Mr. Lamb indicated that liquor would be stored in a locked storage room at the Ice Center.

Commissioner Meister asked if employees would be BASSET Certified and if wristbands would be used. Mr. Lamb answered yes that all employees were BASSET Certified and noted that staff would sometimes work events at both the Bloomington Arena and the Ice Center. He stated that wristbands would not be used and that each patron would be carded individually. Commissioner Meister then asked what the hours would be. Mr. Lamb answered that they would only serve during games and that the times would depend on game times, but that games were typically from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on the weekends.

Commissioner Brady asked if anyone in the audience was present to speak for or against the Item. No one came forward.

Commissioner Brady closed the Public Hearing at 4:09 p.m.

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

Commissioner Brady directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Fiesta Ranchera of Illinois, Inc., d/b/a Fiesta Ranchera No. 3, to be located at 604 IAA Dr., Requesting Approval of the Creation of a Class RAS (Restaurant, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

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

Nicolas Canchola, Owner of Fiesta Ranchera of Illinois, LLC (Applicant), after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Mr. Canchola explained that the establishment was seeking approval for a new liquor license due to the relocation of his current restaurant. He explained that the business had been in its current location for over 20 years and was moving to a new location not far from the existing location, but closer to Veteran's Parkway for more visibility.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle asked if there would be any significant changes to the business' operations. Mr. Canchola stated that operations would be exactly the same.

Commissioner Meister asked if the hours and capacity would remain the same. Mr. Canchola explained that the hours would be the same and that the capacity would be smaller in

the new location with slightly over 100 people. Commissioner Meister asked if employees would be BASSET Certified. Mr. Canchola answered yes.

Mr. Boyle noted that a different licensee under the same ownership had a pending violation for sale to a minor, but that the issue had since been resolved.

Commissioner Poondru asked if there would be any outdoor seating. Mr. Canchola noted there would be a patio with about six tables. Commissioner Poondru asked how the area would be monitored. Mr. Canchola explained there would be a fence around the area. Commissioner Poondru asked if the establishment would host any large parties. Mr. Canchola answered no.

Chris McAllister, Building Official, clarified that the indoor occupancy would be less than 100 people. Mr. Canchola agreed and stated his previous estimate included outside occupancy as well.

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

Commissioner Brady closed the Public Hearing at 4:14 p.m.

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

Commissioner Brady directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from 8 Bit II, Inc., d/b/a 8 Bit Arcade Bar, to be located at 217 W. Jefferson St., Requesting Approval of the Creation of a Class TAPS (Tavern, All Types of Alcohol, Package, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License.

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

Jason Pacey, President of 8 Bit II, Inc. (Applicant), after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Mr. Pacey described the business as a straightforward arcade bar and noted that they had previously operated in Bloomington for four years without any issues. He emphasized that the new location would be essentially the same as their previous establishment, just with a larger space.

Commissioner Meister asked what the hours of operation and occupancy would be and whether employees would be BASSET Certified. Mr. Pacey stated that the hours would be 4:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. every day except for Saturdays, which would be 2:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., He then stated that all employees would be BASSET certified by State requirements once hired, and indicated that occupancy had not been granted yet.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle asked if Mr. Pacey owned or operated any other establishments. Mr. Pacey answered yes that they also had an establishment in Peoria that had been in operation for 10 years.

Chris McAllister, Building Official, noted that the applicant would need to provide building plans to the City so that any alterations could be made and occupancy determined.

Commissioner Brady asked what had been in the proposed location. Mr. Pacey noted that it was the old Pantagraph building and that it was currently unoccupied.

Asst. Police Chief Paul Williams asked if the location would be rented out for parties. Mr. Pacey explained that they would rent it out for birthday or similar parties during the hours they were not open to the general public or occasionally on Sundays.

Commissioner Brady asked if they would serve food. Mr. Pacey indicated that only frozen pizza would be served.

Mr. Boyle noted that there had been no issues with the prior establishment Mr. Pacey had owned and operated when it was open.

Commissioner Brady asked if anyone in the audience was present to speak for or against the item. Tony Woolery, after being sworn, addressed the Commission.

Mr. Woolery spoke in support of the 8-Bit Arcade Bar. He shared his personal experience of enjoying arcade bars as a place to relax, unwind, and have fun while enjoying adult beverages. He stated that he believed the establishment would bring a vibrant and enjoyable entertainment option to Downtown Bloomington and noted that he strongly supported the liquor license application.

Commissioner Brady closed the Public Hearing at 4:20 p.m.

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

Commissioner Brady directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

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

Commissioner Brady opened the Public Hearing at 4:21 p.m.

Axel Jimenez, Proposed Partial Owner of Casper Brewing Company, LLC (Applicant), after being sworn, addressed the Commission.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle outlined the application, which included a change in ownership and a request to redefine the premises. He explained the need for additional information about the proposed premise redefinition and requested that the Commission review only the ownership change and that the redefinition of premise part of the Item be continued to a future meeting date.

Mr. Jimenez stated that he bought into the business about a month prior to the hearing date and would take over 25% of ownership, leaving David Casper with 75%.

Commissioner Meister asked if the business operations would remain the same. Mr. Jimenez answered yes.

Commissioner Poondru asked if staff would be BASSET Certified. Mr. Jimenez answered yes.

Mr. Boyle asked if Mr. Jimenez had other businesses that sold alcohol. Mr. Jimenez explained that he also held ownership in Bloomington Tennis & Turf.

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

Commissioner Brady closed the Public Hearing at 4:24 p.m.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Poondru, to positively recommend the change in ownership to Council as presented.

Commissioner Brady directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru

Motion carried.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Poondru, to continue the redefinition of premises application to the August 12, 2025 Liquor Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Brady directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.E. First Appearance on a Citation Issued to Shri Sharda LLC, d/b/a Main Street Convenient Mart, Located at 1919 S. Main St., for Violating Chapter 6, Section 26(a) of the Bloomington City Code Relating to Selling Alcohol to a Minor.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle presented a citation issued to Shri Sharda LLC, d/b/a Main Street Convenient Mart for selling alcohol to a minor. He explained that during a Police compliance check the establishment was found in violation, had since admitted to the violation, and agreed to pay a standard first-offense fine of \$600.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.F. First Appearance on a Citation Issued to Chi Family Express LLC, d/b/a Chi Family Express LLC, Located at 3907 General Electric Rd. Unit 6, for Violating Chapter 6, Section 26(a) of the Bloomington City Code Relating to Selling Alcohol to Two Minors.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle presented a citation issued to Chi Family Express for selling alcohol to minors during a Police compliance check. He explained that the incident involved two minors, which resulted in a \$800 fine. He stated that the establishment had admitted to the violation and settled the case.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.G. First Appearance on a Citation Issued to Fiesta Ranchera of Bloomington, Inc., d/b/a Fiesta Ranchera No. 5, Located at 2103 N. Veterans Pkwy Unit 212, for Violating Chapter 6, Section 26(a) of the Bloomington City Code Relating to Selling Alcohol to Two Minors.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle presented a citation against Fiesta Ranchera of Bloomington Inc., for a failed a Police compliance check on May 29, 2025 for selling to a minor. He noted that the violation was the establishment's first, and that they would pay a standard \$600 fine. He stated that while the settlement documents were not yet signed, an agreement had been reached, and paperwork was expected to be completed before the next meeting.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.H. First 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 George Boyle presented a citation against TVEO Corporation, d/b/a Eric's Too, for a failed Police compliance check for selling to a minor. He explained that the establishment has had seven violations in just under three years. He stated that due to the severity of the repeated infractions, the City was working to determine appropriate sanctions and confirm the factual allegations. He proposed continuing the matter to the August 12, 2025, Liquor Commission meeting to allow additional time for details of the citation to be resolved.

Commissioner Meister asked if all of the violations were under the same ownership. Mr. Boyle answered yes.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Poondru, to continue the Item to the August 12, 2025, Liquor Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Brady directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru

Motion carried.

New Business

No New Business was discussed.

Adjournment

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

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru

Motion carried (viva voce).

The Meeting Adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

 Dan Brady
Dan Brady, Commissioner

 Leslie Smith-Yocum
Leslie Smith-Yocum, City Clerk

