



**Minutes
Liquor Commission - Regular Session
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - 4:00 PM**

The Liquor Commission convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 4:00 PM. 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
Michael Jordan	Commissioner	Present
Cleotha Peterson	Commissioner	Present, Non-Voting
Roger Bedeker	Commissioner	Present, Non-Voting

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
Ashley Lara	Records & Licensing Specialist	Present
Taylor Kern	Downtown Development Specialist	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 are listed and voted on separately.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, Seconded by Commissioner Jordan to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 4.A. Continued Consideration and Action on Approving the August 12, 2025, Regular Liquor Commission Meeting Minutes. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 4.B. Consideration and Action on Approving the September 9, 2025, Regular Liquor Commission Meeting Minutes. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Commissioner Brady directed the Clerk to call the roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru; Jordan

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 Center for the Performing Arts, located at 600 N. East St., Requesting Approval of a Change in Classification from a Class EBS (Entertainment, Beer & Wine Only, and Sunday Sales) to a Class EAS (Entertainment, All Types of Alcohol, 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 4:04 PM.

Anthony Nelson, Director of the City of Bloomington's Arts & Entertainment Department (Applicant), after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Mr. Nelson explained that staff had received several requests for the facility to serve hard alcohol and that they were losing money because outside businesses, using secondary premise liquor licenses, served alcohol in the building. He explained that this was the reasoning that led them to apply to increase their current liquor license classification, in order to provide additional options for events and for those renting the facility.

Commissioner Meister asked if everyone serving alcohol would be BASSET Certified and confirmed the closing hours requested, which were listed on the application as 1 AM, Sunday through Thursday, and 2 AM, Friday and Saturday. Mr. Nelson answered yes to both and noted that the closing time would depend on the events being held.

Staff had no concerns.

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

Commissioner Brady closed the Public Hearing at 4:06 PM.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, to positively recommend the Item to Council.

Commissioner Brady directed the Clerk to call the roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru; Jordan

Motion carried.

The following Item was presented:

Item 5.B. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Spinnegan's, LLC, to be located at 1101 Airport Rd., Requesting Approval of the Creation of a Class RAPS (Restaurant, All Types of Alcohol, Package, 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 4:08 PM.

Robert McDermott, Part Owner of Spinnegan's, LLC (Applicant), after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Mr. McDermott explained that they were requesting a liquor license

in order to take over the location when the current licensee, Crafted, surrendered their liquor license. He noted that they planned to continue offering live music, food, and similar services to what was currently offered at the location.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle asked Mr. McDermott if he operated any other businesses. Mr. McDermott stated that he was an owner in Bar @ Pop-Up, Empire Coffee, and BloNo Pizza in Normal. Mr. Boyle thanked him and then noted that Bar @ Pop-Up would appear later on the agenda for a citation related to selling alcohol to a minor and stated that the business had not had any other previous issues, nor did Legal have concerns about the proposed application.

Commissioner Poondru asked if everyone serving alcohol would be BASSET Certified. Mr. McDermott answered yes.

Commissioner Meister asked which areas of the property would be designated for the service and consumption of alcohol. Mr. McDermott explained that there was a designated bar inside separate of the coffee bar that alcohol would be sold from. He also stated that on special occasions a portable bar might be placed outside to sell on the patio. He noted they planned to keep the same model as the current licensee using the same service areas including the upstairs and downstairs patios, the volleyball courts, and the grass area out back. He noted that liquor would not be sold from the food truck. Commissioner Meister then asked about food service. Mr. McDermott explained that they would have bakery items, sandwiches, pizzas, and other quick-serve foods that could be easily heated.

Mr. Boyle noted they were applying for a restaurant license and asked if the applicants were aware of the required ratio for the restaurant liquor license classification type. Mr. McDermott answered yes.

Commissioner Brady then asked if other staff had questions.

Asst. Police Chief Paul Williams asked about security cameras and requested that the business contact him to discuss emergency contacts and camera set ups. Mr. McDermott agreed and noted that they were still working on the camera set-up.

Staff had no additional comments or concerns.

Commissioner Brady stated that the business was interested in gaming. Mr. McDermott confirmed. Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, shared information on how video gaming licenses work at the City and State levels, and pointed out that a separate application would be required.

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

Commissioner Brady closed the Public Hearing at 4:16 PM.

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

Commissioner Brady directed the Clerk to call the roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru; Jordan

Motion carried.

The following Item was presented:

Item 5.C. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Golden Ticket Cinemas, Inc., located at 415 Detroit Dr., Requesting Approval of the Creation of a Class EBS (Entertainment,

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 4:18 PM.

Amy Rohrschneider, General Manager of Golden Ticket Cinemas, Inc. (Applicant), after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Ms. Rohrschneider explained that they were requesting a liquor license to complement the cinema services offered at their establishment. She stated that the venue would offer a self-service beer wall that could only be operated by guests who had their identification checked to ensure they were at least 21 years of age and who had been issued a beer card.

Commissioner Jordan asked how alcohol would be monitored in the theaters. Ms. Rohrschneider explained that guests after being carded would also be given a wristband to wear pointing out that the wristbands would also assist them in monitoring drinking in the theaters. She shared that all staff serving and monitoring alcohol would be BASSET-trained and she stated that staff would monitor by doing random checks of theaters via standard entry doors into the theaters, as well as from above where the movies were projected. She added that the beer cards also had limitations in which a single card could not be used for more than two drinks in two hours. She explained how card and dispensing system monitored the ounces poured and then locked the card down once the maximum was reached. From there customers would have to get re-carded to turn their card back on. She also discussed how funds could remain on a card if not used, but because the card timed out every two hours it would require the person holding the card to be carded in order to activate it again in the future.

Commissioner Poondru asked if everyone serving alcohol would be BASSET Certified. Ms. Rohrschneider answered yes.

Commissioner Meister asked if they served food. Ms. Rohrschneider stated that they would have full-service food in addition to quick self-serve concessions.

Commissioner Brady asked if staff had any questions or concerns. None were discussed.

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

Commissioner Brady closed the Public Hearing at 4:24 PM.

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

Commissioner Brady directed the Clerk to call the roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru; Jordan

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.D. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Xing Xing, LLC., d/b/a The Vault of Bloomington, located at 110 W. Washington St., Basement Level, Requesting Approval of the Creation of a Class TA (Tavern, All Types of Alcohol) Liquor License. (Recommended Motion: The Public Hearing proceeds to determine whether the Application meets liquor licensure requirements.)

Commissioner Brady opened the Public Hearing at 4:25 PM.

Jesse Chu, General Manager of Xing Xing, LLC (Applicant), after being sworn, addressed

the Commission. Mr. Chu explained that they were requesting a liquor license in order to take over the location when the current licensee, The Vault on Washington, had surrendered their liquor license.

Asst. Corporation Counsel, George Boyle, asked Mr. Chu if he had any experience operating bars or serving alcohol. Mr. Chu stated that he had been the manager at the Vault under the current ownership and would continue on as manager under the new ownership. Mr. Boyle asked if he lived in McLean County. Mr. Chu stated that he did and that he had just moved to the area around six months ago from Los Angeles (California).

Commissioner Meister asked if everyone serving alcohol would be BASSET Certified and what the closing hours requested were. Mr. Chu answered yes that staff would be trained and noted that the hours requested were 8 PM to 2 AM, Wednesday through Saturday. Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle clarified that the City Code required that alcohol sales cease at 1 AM on Wednesday and Thursday. Mr. Chu stated he was not aware, but that they would follow the rules. Commissioner Meister asked about capacity. Mr. Chu stated that he believed the capacity was 500.

Building Official, Chris McCallister stated that there were some outstanding fire violations and maybe some other violations that existing owner was working through. He reminded Mr. Chu they would need to be remedied prior to the business opening.

Commission Poondru asked about the setup of the space. Mr. Chu stated that there were three bars with only one primary exit for guests off Washington Street and then an emergency exit off the alley on the backside that was used by staff.

Commissioner Brady asked if City staff had any questions or concerns.

Asst. Police Chief Paul Williams asked if they planned to do bottle service or sell VIP packages. He referenced some prior issues the current establishment had had with renting the space. He asked if they planned to rent the space out. Mr. Chu stated that they had some contracts. One with a sorority at ISU (Illinois State University) who held events at their space, but that the business remained open to the public during the events and another contract with LineSkip, an app that helped people skip the line when entering. He stated that they had no plans to rent the space out for private parties, nor do bottle service. He stated that they had found that they made more money selling individual drinks and planned to stick to that only. Chief Williams then asked about cameras at the business. Mr. Chu stated that they had a lot of cameras and that he would reach out to the Police Department following the meeting to confirm camera details.

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

Commissioner Brady closed the Public Hearing at 4:45 PM.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Poondru, to positively recommend the Item to Council on the condition that the hours listed on the application be amended to 1 AM on Wednesday and Thursday, and on full compliance with all Building Code regulations.

Commissioner Brady directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru; Jordan

Motion carried.

The following Item was presented:

Item 5.E. Public Hearing and Action on an Application from Aroma Hospitality Group, LLC, d/b/a Scramblers, located at 1607 Jumer Dr., Requesting Approval of the Creation of a Class RAPS (Restaurant, All Types of Alcohol, Package, 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 4:48 PM.

Jeremy Cruthis, General Manager of Aroma Hospitality Group, LLC (Applicant), after being sworn, addressed the Commission. Mr. Cruthis explained that the establishment would be geared towards breakfast and they hoped would be a place where their hotel guests and the community could go for light entertainment and a new dining experience.

Asst. Corporation Counsel George Boyle asked if the owners had experience in the industry. Mr. Cruthis answered yes and noted that they also owned Fusion Crunch in Downtown Bloomington, as well as operated a liquor license through the hotel and conference center.

Commissioner Meister asked if everyone serving alcohol would be BASSET Certified and what their hours of operation would be. Mr. Cruthis answered yes to everyone being BASSET Certified and noted that the requested hours were 6 AM to 12 AM every day. She then asked him if they planned to use the patio at the restaurant and whether alcohol was intended to be served there too. He stated that they hoped to use the patio for light music when the weather permitted and that their application included serving alcohol there too.

Commissioner Brady asked if staff had any questions or concerns. None were discussed.

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

Commissioner Brady closed the Public Hearing at 4:53 PM.

Commissioner Brady shared that he had attended an event showcasing the improvements made to the hotel and that he was given a tour of the restaurant at that time. He complimented the work done and expressed excitement for all they were doing.

Commissioner Meister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, to positively recommend the Item to Council.

Commissioner Brady directed the Clerk to call the roll:

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru; Jordan

Motion carried.

Item 5.F. First Appearance on a Citation Issued to Thornton's LLC d/b/a Thornton's #361, located at 1011 N. Hershey Rd., for Violation of Chapter 6, Section 26(a) of the Bloomington City Code Prohibiting Sale of Alcohol to Persons Under 21 Years of Age. (Recommended Motion: N/A)

Asst. Corporation Counsel Boyle explained that the business received a citation for selling alcohol to two underage persons during a police compliance check, which are performed periodically in conjunction with the State of Illinois Police. He reported that it was their first violation, they admitted to the offense, paid a \$800 fine, and an agreed order was entered, so no further action was needed.

Item 5. G. First Appearance on a Citation Issued to Around the Corner II, Inc. d/b/a Bar

@ Pop-Up, Located at 409 N. Hershey Rd., for Violation of Chapter 6, Section 26(a) of the Bloomington City Code Prohibiting Sale of Alcohol to Persons Under 21 Years of Age. (Recommended Motion: N/A)

Asst. Corporation Counsel Boyle explained that the business received a citation for selling alcohol to two underage persons during a police compliance check, which are performed periodically in conjunction with the State of Illinois Police. He reported that it was their first violation, they admitted to the offense, paid a \$800 fine, and an agreed order was entered, so no further action was needed.

New Business

No New Business was discussed.

Adjournment

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

AYES: Brady; Meister; Poondru; Jordan

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM.

City of Bloomington

ATTEST



Dan Brady

Leslie Smith-Yocum

Dan Brady, Liquor Commissioner

Leslie Smith-Yocum, City Clerk