



**MINUTES
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF
THE LIQUOR COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020, 4:00 P.M.**

This meeting was conducted under Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-07, Section 6 implemented in response to COVID-19, which suspended in-person attendance under the Open Meeting Act, 5 ILCS 120.

The Liquor Commission convened in Regular Session both in-person in City Hall's Council Chambers and virtually via Zoom conferencing at 4:02 p.m., on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Tari Renner.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tari Renner	Commissioner	Present	
Jim Jordan	Commissioner	Remote	
Lindsey Powell	Commissioner	Remote	

Staff Advisors

Staff Present	Title	Status	Arrived
Amanda Mohan	Deputy City Clerk	Remote	
George Boyle	Asst. Corporation Counsel	Remote	
Gregory Scott	Asst. Police Chief	Remote	
Chris McAlister	Building Official	Remote	

Public Comment

Commissioner Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment. Ms. Mohan stated that the following person submitted public comment via email: (1) Surena Fish.

Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 4. Consideration and action to approve Minutes from the May 12, 2020 Regular Liquor Commission Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Commissioner Powell motioned, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, to approve the Minutes from the May 12, 2020 Regular Liquor Commission Meeting as presented.

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

AYES: Jordan, Powell, Renner

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5. Public Hearing and action on the Application of Ralben, Inc., d/b/a Cadillac Jacks, located at 1507 S. Main St., requesting to redefine their approved area for service and consumption to allow an expanded Outdoor Service and Consumption Area, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

The following Commissioners were present for the Public Hearing: (1) Jordan; (2) Powell; (3) Renner.

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

Commissioner Renner asked if anyone had registered to speak for or against the application. Ms. Mohan responded that no one registered to speak live, but one emailed public comment was received by the following individual: (1) Jennifer Weber.

The public comment was provided to the Commissioners and the applicant.

Mr. George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, asked if a representative was present from the applicant business. Ms. Mohan confirmed no one was present virtually or in-person.

Commissioner Renner asked Mr. Boyle his recommendation on how the Commission should proceed in the absence of a representative. Mr. Boyle stated the Commission did receive a public comment that opposed the application, and since the application was a request, the applicant business should have an opportunity to respond and answer any questions the Commission or staff may have. He advised the item could be denied or continued in light of any confusion of COVID-19's rules for public meetings. He recommended the hearing was continued until the next Liquor Commission Meeting on August 11, 2020.

Commissioner Renner cautioned the denial of the application from one negative public comment. He stated a representative should be present. Mr. Boyle agreed a representative should be present to make their case and answer any questions.

Commissioner Jordan agreed the hearing should be continued to the next Liquor Commission Meeting in light of any confusion.

Commissioner Powell agreed with Commissioner Jordan. She expressed her concern that a representative was not present to answer questions especially with the negative public comment submitted.

Commissioner Renner closed the Public Hearing at 4:11 p.m.

Commissioner Jordan motioned, seconded by Commissioner Powell, to continue the hearing to the August 11, 2020 Liquor Commission Meeting.

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

AYES: Jordan, Powell, Renner

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 6. Public Hearing and action on a Change of Ownership Application of d/b/a Flingers Pizza Pub located at 1503 E. Vernon Ave., from Big Cheese, Inc. to Craft Pizza, Inc.,

who is requesting a Class RAS (Restaurant, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) liquor license, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

The following Commissioners were present for the Public Hearing: (1) Jordan; (2) Powell; and (3) Renner.

Commissioner Renner opened the Public Hearing at 4:11 p.m.

Commissioner Renner asked Mr. Boyle to provide an update on the item. Mr. Boyle stated the Legal Department had no concerns with the buyer or the seller.

Commissioner Renner asked if anyone had registered to speak for or against this application. Ms. Mohan confirmed no one had registered.

Commissioner Renner asked both Mr. Pat Fruin, current Owner of Flingers, and Mr. Tim Cummings, potential New Owner of Flingers, if either had additional comments for the Commission. Neither Mr. Fruin or Mr. Cummings had any additional comments.

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

Commissioner Powell motioned, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, to positively recommend to Council the approval of the change of ownership and license as presented, contingent upon compliance with all building, health and safety codes.

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

AYES: Jordan, Powell, Renner

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 7. Public Hearing and action on the Application of Empire Buds, LLC, d/b/a Crafted, to be located at 1101 Airport Road, requesting a Class TAPS (Tavern, All Types of Alcohol, Package and Sunday Sales) liquor license, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

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

The following Commissioners were present for the Public Hearing: (1) Jordan; (2) Powell; and (3) Renner.

Commissioner Renner asked if anyone had registered to speak for or against the applicant. Ms. Mohan confirmed none had registered.

Ron Hayward, one of the Owners of Crafted, after being sworn in, addressed the Commission. He explained the establishment would be designed similar to a food court where there would be multiple eateries with a common dining area. He explained a restaurant called Pokeworks, which would offer Hawaiian food, and a coffee shop, which would offer crafted coffees and pastries, were two eateries to be located in the building. He went on to explain Crafted, the bar area to hold the liquor license, would service the indoor and outdoor dining including the volleyball and bocce ball courts. Mr. Hayward expressed a liquor license was pivotal to their success with the volleyball leagues.

Commissioner Jordan asked if all employees would be BASSET trained. Mr. Hayward responded he took early retirement to become the on-site manager of Crafted. He explained

he was BASSET certified and the certification would be a requirement of staff for employment. Commissioner Jordan asked how liquor would be controlled with the establishment open to the public. Mr. Hayward responded he had five years of bartender training and the managers from all three businesses would train staff in addition to the BASSET Certification. He also explained the outdoor area would be fenced in and secured.

Commissioner Jordan asked confirmation on how patrons would access the bar. Mr. Hayward explained patrons could access the bar from entering through the establishment and from an outdoor walk-up window. Commissioner Jordan expressed concern with the walk-up window being accessible to the public and asked how it would be controlled. Mr. Hayward stated bartender staff would check IDs at the bar and walk-up window.

Commissioner Powell asked if Crafted intended to have live music. Mr. Hayward explained live music was a possibility and their location would not disturb residents as they would be located in a commercial area.

Ms. Mohan made a point of clarification to Commissioner Jordan's concern of the bar walk-up window. She explained the walk-up window was only accessible to the patrons in the enclosed volleyball, bocce ball and outdoor dining area. Commissioner Jordan thanked her for the clarification.

Mr. Boyle expressed concern about the licensed premises being accessible to persons under the age of 21. Mr. Hayward confirmed with the coffee shop and Pokeworks, persons under the age of 21 would be able to patron those eateries. Mr. Boyle explained a requirement of a tavern liquor license classification was that no person under the age of 21 would be allowed to enter without the accompaniment of their parent or guardian. He mentioned an entertainment and restaurant liquor license classifications as potential alternatives. Mr. Boyle asked if Mr. Hayward sought a liquor license classification that would allow persons under 21 to enter the premises. Mr. Hayward responded affirmatively.

Mr. Boyle asked if the three eateries in the food court were different entities. Mr. Hayward confirmed they were separate, but were owned by the same partnership. Mr. Boyle then asked Mr. Hayward Crafted's projected revenues for liquor verses entertainment and sports recreation. Mr. Hayward responded.

Commissioner Renner stated an entertainment liquor license classification would not qualify under Crafted's projected revenues. Mr. Boyle suggested a restaurant liquor license classification as the best alternative option. He recommended the Commission positively approve the application on condition the Legal Department worked with the applicant to agree on the best liquor license classification within the City ordinances. Mr. Boyle stated with multiple businesses to use a shared space where minors would be allowed, a classification change would be needed in order to be able to serve alcohol.

Commissioner Renner proposed a motion to positively approve the application with the condition that staff could work with the applicant to decide the appropriate license classification before it appeared on a Council Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Jordan asked for clarification if the license classification to be approved would be a restaurant classification instead of a tavern classification. Commissioner Renner reiterated that staff could work with the applicant to decide the appropriate license classification.

Commissioner Powell motioned, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, to positively approve the application on the condition that staff would work with the applicant to decide the appropriate license classification before it appeared on a Council Meeting Agenda, and contingent upon compliance with all building, health and safety codes.

Mr. Hayward described the hours of operation for each eatery within the food court as Pokeworks to close at 9:00 p.m., the coffee shop will close at 6:00 p.m., and Crafted would open at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Renner reiterated staff could work with the applicant to decide the appropriate license classification.

Commissioner Powell explained to Mr. Hayward that she believed a classification change would be necessary to allow minors on the premises. She provided the example of Gill Street Sports Bar which was a restaurant during the day but operated more like a tavern with volleyball courts in the evening.

Mr. Boyle stated since the Commission did not have an objection to the ownership of the business, if directed, staff work with the applicant to decide the appropriate license classification.

Commissioner Jordan expressed concern about the classification.

Commissioner Renner asked Mr. Boyle the possibility of a license classification agreement before the next meeting. Mr. Boyle confirmed.

Commissioner Renner called the question and closed the Public Hearing at 4:36 p.m.

Commissioner Powell motioned, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, to positively approve the application on the condition that staff would work with the applicant to decide the appropriate license classification before it appeared on a Council Meeting Agenda, and contingent upon compliance with all building, health and safety codes.

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

AYES: Jordan, Powell, Renner

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 8. Continued Hearing on Europe, Inc., d/b/a Chasers, located at 110 W. Washington Street, on a Complaint and Citation alleging violations of Chapter 6, Section 27(b) of the Bloomington City Code prohibiting minors in a tavern, as requested by the Legal Department.

Commissioner Renner asked Mr. Boyle to provide an update. Mr. Boyle explained Mr. Lenz was the representative for Mr. Nurcheshi, the Owner of Europe, Inc., d/b/a Chasers. Mr. Boyle explained the complaints were for minors in a tavern from earlier in the year that received a few continuances, some at the request of the licensee and some due to COVID-19. He went on to explain the parties have not reached an agreement yet, but expressed his belief the parties were very close to a settlement. Mr. Boyle recommended the hearing be continued to the August 11, 2020 Liquor Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Renner confirmed with Mr. Lenz if he was in agreement. Mr. Lenz confirmed.

Commissioner Jordan motioned, seconded by Commissioner Powell, the hearing be continued to the August 11, 2020 Liquor Commission Meeting.

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

AYES: Jordan, Powell, Renner

Motion carried.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment

Commissioner Powell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.



Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk