



MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION LIQUOR COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021, 4:00 P.M.

This meeting was conducted under Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order 2020-07, Section 6, which was reissued and extended by Executive Order 2021-01, and 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 virtually via Zoom conferencing with Tari Renner, Liquor Commissioner, and Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk, in-person in City Hall’s Council Chambers and virtually via Zoom conferencing at 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. 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	4:17 p.m.
Lindsey Powell	Commissioner	Remote	

Staff Advisors

Staff Present	Title	Status	Arrived
Amanda Mohan	Deputy City Clerk	Present	
George Boyle	Asst. Corporation Counsel	Remote	
Timothy McCoy	Assistant Police Chief	Remote	

Public Comment

Commissioner Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment. Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk, informed the Commission that no individuals had registered speak live or submitted emailed public comment.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled by Council from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

Commissioner Powell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Renner, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

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

AYES: Powell, Renner

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 4.A. Consideration and action to approve Minutes from the November 20, 2020 Special Liquor Commission Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

The following item was presented:

Item 4.B. Consideration and action to approve Minutes from the December 7, 2020 Regular Liquor Commission Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Regular Agenda

All license creations, amendments or transfers are contingent upon compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.

Commissioner Jordan experienced technical difficulties joining the meeting. The Commission decided to move Item 5.A., a public hearing, to after Item 5.D. to allow Commissioner Jordan additional time to join.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Hearing: First appearance on a Complaint and Citation issued to Bloomington Columbian homes Association, Inc., d/b/a Knights of Columbus, located at 1706 RT Dunn Drive, as requested by the Legal Department.

Commissioner Renner asked George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel, for an update on the item.

Mr. Boyle informed the Commission that the case was settled. The establishment admitted to one violation of the Emergency Orders prohibiting indoor dining, which held a fine of \$400.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C. Hearing: First appearance on a Complaint and Citation issued to Fiesta Ranchera of Illinois, Inc., d/b/a Fiesta Ranchera Mexican Restaurant # 3, located at 1500 E. Empire St. Suite A3, as requested by the Legal Department.

Commissioner Renner asked Mr. Boyle for an update on the item.

Mr. Boyle informed the Commission that the case was settled. The establishment admitted to one violation of the Emergency Orders prohibiting indoor dining, which held a fine of \$400.

The following item was presented:

Item 8.D. Hearing: First appearance on a Complaint and Citation issued to Crawford's Corner Pub, LLC, d/b/a Crawford's Corner Pub, located at 610 W. Chestnut St., as requested by the Legal Department.

Commissioner Renner asked Mr. Boyle for an update on the item.

Mr. Boyle informed the Commission that the case was settled. The establishment admitted to two violations of the Emergency Orders prohibiting indoor dining, which held a fine of \$800.

Commissioner Renner asked Bob Crawford, Owner of Crawford's Corner Pub, if he had any questions for the Commission.

Mr. Crawford asked the Commission for additional information on video gaming permissions under the upcoming COVID-19 Tier 2 mitigations. He also questioned the motive behind the mitigation rules.

Mr. Boyle responded that safety was the main priority during an ongoing pandemic and cited the number of cases and deaths reported that day. He noted that it appeared the City would be part of the region that would enter Tier 2 mitigations which continued to prohibit indoor dining. Mr. Boyle informed the Commission that messaging would be sent to all liquor

license holders in reference to the new mitigations and that messaging about video gaming could also be addressed.

Mr. Crawford stated that he did not want to break the rules and expressed the hardships caused by a lack of indoor dining.

Commissioner Renner stated he had hoped local establishments would be permitted indoor dining at 25% capacity but referred to the Governor's office and the Illinois Department of Public Health determinations. He expressed that public safety remained the priority.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Public Hearing and action on the request for a Change of Ownership Application at 2401 E. Oakland Ave. from PSM Shell, Inc., d/b/a PSM Shell, to Jay Sadhima Two, LLC, d/b/a Bloomington Shell, for the same Class GBPS (Gas Station, Beer and Wine Only, Package and Sunday Sales) liquor license, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

The following Commissioners were present for the Public Hearing: Jordan, Powell, Renner

Commissioner Renner opened the public hearing at 4:11 p.m. and asked Mr. Boyle for opening statements.

Mr. Boyle explained the application was for a 100% change of ownership.

Commissioner Renner reminded the Commission that small changes to ownership were not brought before the Commission for consideration but since it was a full change of ownership, it had to appear before the Commission.

Mr. Boyle confirmed.

Commissioner Renner asked if there was anyone registered to speak for or against the application. Ms. Mohan responded that no individuals registered to speak against the application but that both Mr. Suresh Mehta, Owner of PSM Shell, and Viren Nayi, Applicant for Bloomington Shell, were available for questions.

Richard Marvel, Attorney representing Bloomington Shell, after being sworn, addressed the Commission. He explained the application was a sale of a limited liability company to another limited liability company in addition to the real estate. He informed the Commission that the applicant currently owned and operated a gas station in Sandwich, IL that did not have any violations. Mr. Marvel stated that the Applicant hired a manager for the location and said manager would relocate to Bloomington before a license was issued. He stated the Applicant agreed to the relocation of the manager as a condition on the liquor license, if needed. Mr. Marvel confirmed that there no major changes to the business plan and that the location would continue to employ two to three employees. Mr. Marvel then formally made two minor corrections to the application which included an update to the applicant experience with a liquor license and that while the application listed no local manager, his manager would relocate.

Commissioner Renner confirmed that the applicant currently ran a gas station in Sandwich, IL and had a clean record for violations. Mr. Marvel confirmed.

Mr. Marvel explained that all employees would be BASSET certified. He expressed that the applicant was looked forward to doing business in the community.

Neither Commissioner Jordan nor Powell had any questions for the applicant.

Mr. Boyle asked for clarification on the ownership of the business and real estate.

Mr. Marvel responded that the business and real estate were owned by two separate entities but that the applicant would purchase both under one entity.

Mr. Boyle confirmed with Mr. Marvel that the Sandwich, IL location was the only location owned by the applicant.

Mr. Boyle reminded the applicant that all employees who sold alcohol would need to be BASSET trained.

Viren Nayi, Applicant for Bloomington Shell, after being sworn, addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Renner asked Mr. Nayi how long he owned the location in Sandwich, IL. Mr. Nayi responded that he took over the business in 2019.

Commissioner Renner confirmed with Mr. Nayi that there had been no liquor violations at that location.

Mr. Boyle asked Mr. Nayi if he owned any liquor establishments prior to the acquisition of the Sandwich, IL location. Mr. Nayi confirmed that he did.

Commissioner Renner closed the public hearing at 4:22 p.m.

Commissioner Powell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, that the application be sent with a positive recommendation to Council for consideration contingent upon employees receiving BASSET certifications and the establishment of a local agent. License creations are 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 9.E. Continued Public Hearing on a Complaint and Citation issued to Mickey's Kitchen, Inc. d/b/a Mickey's Kitchen, located at 1709 S. Veterans Parkway, Suite A, as requested by the Legal Department.

Commissioner Renner asked Mr. Boyle for an update on the item.

Mr. Boyle stated that the tax issues had been resolved and requested the item to be tabled to next regular Liquor Commission meeting where staff would make a recommendation for the next steps.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Powell, that the item be tabled until the next regularly scheduled Liquor Commission meeting.

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

AYES: Jordan, Powell, Renner

Motion carried.

Old Business

Mr. Boyle provided additional information on the COVID-19 Tier 2 mitigations and stated that the Legal Department was available to licensees who had questions.

Commissioner Renner provided details on two installments of the City's COVID-19 Small Business Assistance grant program and how violations could be a factor in receiving assistance. He reported that the City continued to advocate for indoor dining to the Governor's office.

Mr. Boyle confirmed that if an establishment applied for the City's COVID-19 Small Business Assistance grant program, failure to comply with the State's rules could be cause for denial of assistance. He reiterated that staff would provide liquor license holders with additional information.

Commissioner Powell asked for additional clarification on video gaming under the COVID-19 Tier 2 mitigations.

Mr. Boyle responded that staff would do additional research and provide clarification to the license holders.

Mr. Crawford read an email he received from his video gaming terminal provider in reference to video gaming under the COVID-19 Tier 2 mitigations. Mr. Boyle reiterated that staff would do additional research and provide clarification to the license holders.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment

Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.



Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk