

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER
JANUARY 7, 2021

Commission Members Participating: Walter Shea, Chairman
Anthony Vigliotti, Commissioner
Barbara Haller, Commissioner

Commission Members Absent: None

Staff Participating: Stephen Rolle, Planning & Regulatory Services
Lt. James Johnson, Worcester Police Department
Alexandra Kalkounis, Law Department
Deborah Steele, Planning & Regulatory Services

****Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 23, 2020 Order, as amended, imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Worcester License Commission will be conducted via remote participation.**

Call to Order – 10:00 am

Minutes

June 10, 2020; June 11, 2020; June 15, 2020; June 17, 2020; June 19, 2020; June 23, 2020; June 25, 2020; June 30, 2020; July 2, 2020; July 9, 2020; December 17, 2020

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of June 10, 2020; June 11, 2020; June 15, 2020; June 17, 2020; June 19, 2020; June 23, 2020; June 25, 2020; June 30, 2020; July 2, 2020; July 9, 2020; December 17, 2020

Common Victualer Requests

1. Albaraka Bakery & Market, 117 Lovell Street

Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Omar Raouf called in for the item. He stated that he is taking over existing location and will be a Middle Eastern store.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the common victualer application.

List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license dated and received December 24, 2020.

Liquor Application Requests

2. AEC Store, Inc. dba New England Convenience, 65 James Street

- Request for package store malt & wine license

Elie Mikhail and Amine Nassif called in for the item.

Mr. Mikhael stated that this is a small convenience store that he is looking to add beer and wine to.

Commissioner Haller stated that she has concerns that there is an existing license at this location that is looking to transfer to another location but that hasn't been completed yet.

The Commission discussed that they would like the current license either revoked or in process to move to new location prior to discussing this application.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to advertise that a hearing be held January 21, 2021 to revoke the current license.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to continue the current application to the January 21, 2021 meeting.

List of Exhibits: Application for package store malt & wine license dated and received December 2, 2020.

3. Price Chopper Operating Co, of Massachusetts, Inc., 72 Pullman Street

- Request for change of manager and change in corporate officers

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone application to January 21, 2021.

4. Revolution Pie and Pint Worcester, LLC, 50 Franklin Street, Suite 400

- Request for change of manager

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone application to January 21, 2021.

5. Craft Table and Bar LLC, 50 Franklin Street, Suite 400

- Request for change of manager

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone application to January 21, 2021.

6. Wormtown Brewery, LLC, 72 Shrewsbury Street

- Request for alteration of premises

David Fields called in for the item. He stated that they are looking to expand the premises to an adjacent space. Mr. Field stated that they also need federal approval.

Lt. Johnson reviewed the proposed space.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the alteration of premises subject to the federal approval being received.

7. Café Neo, Inc., dba One Way & Grill, 202 Millbury Street

- Request for restaurant all alcohol license
- Request for common victualer license
- Request for entertainment license for jukebox, TV, karaoke

Kathryn & Peter Tsgias called in for the item.

Chairman Shea stated that they appreciate the applicant reaching out to neighbors.

Commissioner Haller asked for the hours for the location. Ms. Tsigas stated that the hours would be 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Commissioner Haller asked when food would be served. Ms. Tsigas stated that food would be served at all times.

Commissioner Haller stated that her concern is whether the premises would be operated as a restaurant vs. a bar and asked how that would be handled. Chair Shea stated that they don't want to see people just sitting at the bar with alcohol and not eating food.

Mr. Tsigas stated that the plan is for a restaurant.

Commissioner Haller asked what the timeline is for opening. Mr. Tsgias stated about six months.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve:

- Request for restaurant all alcohol license
- Request for common victualer license
- Request for entertainment license for jukebox, TV, karaoke

and asked that applicant come before the License Commission one month prior to opening.

List of Exhibits: Application for restaurant all alcohol license, common victualer license and entertainment license dated and received February 20, 2020.

8. Interstate Management Company, LLC dba Courtyard Worcester, 72 Grove Street

- Request for change of manager

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone application to January 21, 2021.

Lodging House requests

9. Hampton Properties, 65 Cedar Street

10. Hampton Properties, 37 Fruit Street

Items #9, #10 were taken contemporaneously.

Attorney Mark Bornstein and Russ Haims called in for the applications.

65 Cedar Street – Three story building which used to be a Becker dormitory. Hampton Properties has purchased the property and will renovate and plan to rent to graduate students.

37 Fruit Street – 3 story building currently under renovation. Onsite parking requirements have been met by leasing parking across the street. All the conditions relative to the Zoning Board of Appeals have been completed.

Attorney Bornstein reviewed the rules for the property.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the lodging house license at 65 Cedar Street.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the lodging house license at 37 Fruit Street.

Retail Marijuana

11. Mayflower Medicinal, Inc., 645 Park Avenue

- Request to amend conditions

Attorney Joshua Lee Smith called in for the item and reviewed the amended conditions requested.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the amended conditions:

- Remove any condition requiring police details at the premises upon Mayflower's opening to the general public.
- Replace the Customer Management, Traffic & Queuing Plan previously filed with the Commission with the Customer Management, Traffic & Queuing Plan provided.
- Modify the hours of operation to 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sundays.

12. Mission MA, 640 Lincoln Street

- Request to amend conditions

No one called in for the item.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the amended conditions:

- Hours: Monday – Saturday – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m., Sunday – 10:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

Violation Hearings

13. Riverfront Foodservice Corp dba Uno Chicago Grill, 25 Major Taylor Blvd.

- Violations of Rules #7, #14

Attorney Mark Bornstein and Steve Hurwitz and Robert Lebreck called in for the item.

Lt. Johnson read the following:

On January 26, 2020, Officers of the Worcester Police Department Alcohol Unit conducted compliance checks at various restaurants throughout the city of Worcester. Two underage volunteers accompanied the officers and were instructed to enter a restaurant and attempt to purchase alcohol without providing identification.

At around 2:50 p.m. two underage volunteers entered the Licensed Premises and a few minutes after entering one of the underage volunteers sent a text to the police officer monitoring them and advised the officer that they had been served alcohol. An officer entered the Licensed Premises and observed the two underage volunteers with drinks on the table in front of them.

Mr. Bornstein stated that they do not dispute the facts as presented and this was failure of the employee. Mr. Bornstein stated that due to the pandemic the revenue of this establishment revenue has been down 50% and would ask the Commission to take that into consideration.

Lt. Johnson stated that Attorney Bornstein did reach out about doing a training class for the establishment.

Commissioner Haller stated that she understands it is tough times, but is concerned this is second violation and hopes that management of Uno's is making efforts to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

Mr. Hurwitz stated that all staff has been trained and they remind employees to follow the rules but in this situation, the bartender, who is a long time employee, was working the dining room and he missed this one. The bartender thought that the guy at the table who was served looked 26 but he understands that he should have carded. Mr. Hurwitz apologized for the incident happening and stated that they usually card anyone who looks under 30.

Commissioner Vigliotti asked why they don't card everyone. Mr. Hurwitz stated that a percent of the population who is older gets upset when asked for ID.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 that the violation did occur.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to issue a warning.

Other Business

Liquor renewals 2021

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the 2021 liquor renewals.

Communications

None

Adjournment

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting 11:24 a.m.