



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER**

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Commissioners Present: Anthony Vigliotti, Chair
Charran Fisher, Commissioner
Maritza Cruz, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: Sergeant Thomas Needham, Worcester Police Department
Alexandra Kalkounis, Worcester Law Department
Paul Payer, Worcester Law Department
Deborah Steele, Licensing

Call to Order – 10:00 A.M.

Minutes: February 15, 2024

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of February 15, 2024.

Requests for Continuances, Extensions, Postponements, & Withdrawals

One Day Liquor & Entertainment Requests

1. **Lupus Foundation of New England, Worcester Common**
Request for one day liquor license
 - o **Saturday – June 8, 2024 -11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Anthony Peppe, participating remotely, stated that this will be for the food truck festival on the Common that the have done in the past. There will be security and TIPS certified staff for event.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day liquor license.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated February 2, 2024.

**2. JCC Camp Scholarship Fundraiser, 633 Salisbury Street
Request for one day entertainment license for live music**

- **Saturday-March 2, 2024-6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Attorney Mark Bornstein appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that this is request for event at the organization and they plan to have some music.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day entertainment license.

**3. Boys & Girls Club of Worcester, 65 Boys & Girls Club Way
Request for one day liquor license**

- **Thursday-March 21, 2024 – 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.**

Linda Motsis, participating remotely, stated that this is for event at the Boys & Girls Club, and they will have security and trained staff present for event.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day liquor license.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated February 8, 2024.

**4. Walk MS: Worcester, 1 Officer Manny Familia Way
Request for one day entertainment license for recorded music, amplification system, DJ**

- **Saturday-April 27, 2024 – 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Samatha Boland, participating remotely, stated that this if for the 5k walk and they will have DJ playing music and making announcements.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day entertainment license.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day entertainment license received and dated February 8, 2024.

**5. Thien Phan, People Capital Funding, 30 Anna Street
Request for one day liquor license**

- **March 16, 2024 – 6:00 p.m. – Midnight**

Thien Phan, participating remotely, stated that this will be for an event at St. George Orthodox Cathedral and security and trained staff will be present for the event.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day liquor license.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated February 11, 2024.

**6. Stephen Hopkins, 270 Park Avenue (outside)
Request for one day liquor license**

- **Sunday-March 11, 2024 – 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday-September 15, 2024-11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**

7. **Stephen Hopkins, 266 Park Avenue (outside)**
Request for one day liquor license
Request for one day entertainment license for tv, radio, dancing by patrons, recorded music, live music, amplification system.
- **Sunday-March 11, 2024-11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Items #6, #7 were taken contemporaneously.

A representative for Stephen Hopkins appeared upon behalf of the applications. He stated that the March 11, 2024, requests are for the St. Patrick's Day Parade and September 15 is for the Start on the Street event.

Sergeant Needham asked if the fence barrier and scanning system they used last year would be in place. The representative stated that they would be as well as 14 security personnel and for Loft it will only 21 and older but at the Blue Jeans location wristbands will be used to identify 21 and older as they looking to attract more family crowd.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day liquor licenses and one day entertainment license for March 11, 2024, and September 15, 2024.

List of Exhibits:

- A. *Application for one day liquor license received and dated February 23, 2024*
- B. *Application for one day entertainment license received and dated February 23, 2024.*

8. **Salgabom Snacks, 257 Park Avenue-outside**
Request to amend one day liquor/entertainment request for March 10, 2024, for ending hour of 6:00 p.m.

Marcel Mona and Ann Marie Monfa appeared upon behalf of the application. Mr. Monfa stated that they had been approved for one day liquor license at previous meeting to 4:00 p.m. and they would like to amend it to 6:00 p.m.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the amendment to 6:00 p.m.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor/entertainment license received and dated February 1, 2024.

9. **Mens/Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, 102 Russell Street**
Request for one day liquor/entertainment request
Request for one day entertainment request for dancing by patrons, dancing by entertainers, live music
- **Saturday-March 2, 2024-Noon-9:00 p.m.**

Michael Coonan appeared upon behalf of the applications. He stated that this is for the annual Irish Festival and security and trained bartenders will be present.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day liquor and one day entertainment requests.

List of Exhibits:

- A. *Application for one day liquor license received and dated February 26, 2024.*
- B. *Application for one day entertainment license received and dated February 26, 2024.*

Common Victualer Requests

10. New Golden Pizza, 1137 Grafton Street

- **Sunday-Saturday-11:00 a.m. – Midnight**

No one appeared for item.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the March 14, 2024, license Commission meeting.

11. El Sombrero Taqueria, 1 Kelley Square

- **Sunday- 10:00 a.m. 10:00 p.m., Monday-Wednesday-10:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m., Thursday-Saturday-10:00 a.m.-1:00 a.m.**

Maria Rodriguez appeared upon behalf of the application. She stated that she is looking to open a restaurant.

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

List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated February 21, 2024.

12. Fuel America, LLC, 100 Front Street

- **Sunday-Saturday-6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

Paul, participating remotely, stated that he is the director of operations, and they will be taking over operation of the business.

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

List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated February 21, 2024.

Alcohol/Entertainment Requests

13. GV Lounge Kelley Square LLC dba Grapevine, 11 Kelley Square
• **Restaurant for restaurant all alcohol**

No one appeared for the item.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the March 14, 2024, License Commission meeting.

14. Sazon Bar & Grill, Inc., 795 Main Street
• **Request for restaurant malt & wine license**

Henry Santos appeared upon behalf of the application.

Chair Vigliotti stated that the Commissioners had viewed the site prior to the meeting.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the restaurant malt & wine license.

List of Exhibits: Application for restaurant malt & wine license received and dated February 2, 2024.

15. Home of Flavors, Inc., dba Ju's Bar and Grille, 102 Green Street
• **Request for transfer of restaurant all alcohol license from Dream Catcher Farm**
• **Request for common victualer**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the applications to the March 14, 2024, License Commission meeting.

Other

16. Rule #37-Bottle Service – Discussion on whether to amend rule to allow bottle service

Attorney Mark Bornstein appeared upon behalf of the item. He stated that bars and restaurants are losing business to establishments in nearby cities because of the lack of VIP offerings in Worcester.

Chair Vigliotti stated that he had concerns about allowing bottle service as many restaurants have cited having problems with lack of staffing and asked how a bar or restaurant could find the staff needed if one table was assigned a dedicated server.

Mr. Bornstein stated that there are laws in place governing sale and consumption of alcohol but if bottle service is approved each individual license holder would need to come before License Commission to request the bottle service and would need to present plans to the Commission.

Commissioner Fisher stated that she found it troubling that people were going to other communities, and she would be in support of the item. Commissioner Fisher stated that it might be easier for license holders to monitor people at a table with a bottle than it is to keep tabs on patrons visiting the bar for shots.

Julius Kumah of Noamesco Bar & Lounge spoke in support of the bottle service and stated that after 2018 when bottle service was banned, he lost business. Mr. Kumah offered the suggestion of having a lock box on the table to display the liquor, but patrons would have to request a pour from the server for the table.

Sergeant Needham stated that he would worry that past problems may reappear. He stated that in the past when a patron has paid a substantial amount for the bottle, and they do not finish it they find ways to smuggle it out of the bar and that sometimes bottles were used as weapons.

Chair Vigliotti stated that he wasn't prepared to vote on the matter today and rather wait instead for recommendations from the Law Department.

Commissioner Cruz saying that she supports local business but wants to proceed with caution on the item.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to continue the item to the March 14, 2024, License Commission meeting.

Adjournment

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 a.m.