

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER
JANUARY 21, 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

January 7, 2021 – Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of January 7, 2021.

Common Victualer Requests

1. Golden Star, 65 James Street #A13

Hours: Monday: Closed; Tuesday–Thursday: 11:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.; Friday: 11:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.; Saturday: 11:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.; Sunday: 11:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

Brian, a representative for the applicant, called in for the item. He stated that this is for a new Chinese restaurant.

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

List of Exhibits: Common Victualer application, dated and received January 14, 2021.

Liquor Application Requests

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

- Request for Package Store Malt & Wine License

Amine Nassif and Elie Mihael called in for the meeting. The License Commission stated that they wanted to take up item #11 first, as that license would need to be revoked for cessation of business so that this application could go forward.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to table the item to later in the meeting.

After hearing Item #11, the Commission re-opened the item.

Mr. Nassif stated that he is looking to add beer and wine to the existing store to help increase revenue at the store.

Upon a roll call, the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the package store malt and wine license

List of Exhibits: Application for Package Store Malt & Wine License, dated and received December 14, 2020.

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

- Request For Change of Manager And Change in Corporate Officers

No one called in for the item.

Upon a roll call, the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the application for change of manager and change in corporate officers.

List of Exhibits: Application For Change of Manager and Change in Corporate Officers dated and received December 4, 2020.

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 the Change of Manager application to the February 4, 2021 License Commission meeting.

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 the Change of Manager application to the February 4, 2021 License Commission meeting.

6. 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 the Change of Manager application to the February 4, 2021 License Commission meeting.

7. Gunatit Ne Sang Corp, 117 Gold Star Blvd, request pledge of license

- Request for Change of Manager

Upon a roll call, the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the Change of Manager application to the February 4, 2021 License Commission meeting.

8. Anokye Krom, LLC, 2 Coes Square

- Request for Common Victualer All Alcohol License
- Hours: Noon-1:00 a.m. daily

Benedicta Boateng called in for the application. Lt. Johnson stated that he had done the site view and photos were shown on screen of the proposed layout.

Kevin Ksen called in for the item and spoke in favor of the application.

Upon a roll call, the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the Common Victualer All Alcohol License.

List of Exhibits: Application for Common Victualer All Alcohol License dated and received January 7, 2021.

Retail Marijuana

9. Bud's Goods & Provisions Corp, 640 Lincoln Street

- Request to Amend Conditions

Attorney Joshua Lee Smith called in for the application.

He stated that they are looking to amend the hours to Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Upon a roll call, the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the Request to Amend Conditions.

List of Exhibits: Letter from Attorney Joshua Lee Smith dated and received January 5, 2021.

10. The Corner Emporium, LLC, 40 Jackson street

- Request for retail marijuana license

Attorney Mark Bornstein called in for the application.

Mr. Bornstein stated that this is an Economic Empowerment application and reviewed the scope of the project and the proposed security for the premises. He stated that the application had received approval for a Special Permit from the Planning Board.

Upon a roll call, the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the retail marijuana license with the following conditions:

1. The operator shall be The Corner Emporium LLC, but The Corner Emporium LLC may operate under a d/b/a without having to seek an amendment to this special permit.
2. The Corner Emporium LLC shall maintain proper licensing through the Cannabis Control Commission to operate the Retail use at the site.
3. No outside storage of marijuana or marijuana products shall be permitted.
4. The facility shall fully comply with the submitted odor control plan providing for proper and adequate ventilation. All resulting odors, smoke, vapor, fumes, gases and particulate matter from the use shall be effectively confined to the premises or so disposed of so as to avoid any air pollution.
5. The facility shall fully comply with the Security Plan in order to provide for the adequate and proper security at the premises so as to avoid, deter and prevent illegal activities from taking place upon or about the premises.
6. The petitioner shall be required to remove all materials, plants, equipment and other paraphernalia within ninety days of ceasing operations or immediately following revocation of its license issued by the Cannabis Control Commission.
7. Hours of operation shall be limited to 8 AM to 11 PM Monday through Saturday, and 10 AM to 11 PM on Sunday, with no incoming deliveries through the main entrance adjacent to the parking lot during business hours.

8. Provided that the establishment is conducted in substantial accordance with all findings of fact and the approved plans on file with the City of Worcester, and in accordance with all applicable governmental codes.

List of Exhibits: Retail Marijuana application dated and received January 5, 2021.

Violation Hearings

11. Mercado Enterprises, Inc., 65 James Street

- Cessation of business hearing

Chair Shea stated that he would be in support of cessation of business for this license, as the licensee has not been operating at this site since spring of 2020, and the current license holder is no longer leasing the property.

Attorney Wayne LeBlanc called in for the item and stated that he represented 61 South Ludlow Street, an applicant who wants to transfer this license from 65 James Street to 61 Ludlow Street. Mr. LeBlanc stated that a transfer application was originally filed in spring in 2020 by another attorney. The other attorney filed the application to transfer this license to the 61 South Ludlow Street location, but was informed by staff that the new location proposed was not zoned for use, and that a Special Permit would be required from the Zoning Board of Appeals in order for the use to be allowed at 61 South Ludlow Street.

Mr. Leblanc also stated that other attorneys had been involved but did not file for the Special Permit. In November, he became involved and he submitted the application for the Special Permit. The application was scheduled to go before Zoning Board of Appeals on January 20, 2021, but the meeting was cancelled due to audio problems, and was rescheduled to the following week. He requested that the Commission hold this item until after the Zoning Board of Appeals held its hearing.

The Commission members discussed the fact that this item had been on the agenda for almost a year with no progress, and that the 61 South Ludlow Street application is free to apply for their own license if they receive a Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Upon a roll call, the Commission voted 3-0 to revoke the Package Store Malt & Wine License for Mercado Enterprises, Inc., 65 James Street due to cessation of business and no longer having a valid lease to be at the property.

Communications

None

Adjournment

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 a.m.