



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

Thursday, March 6, 2025

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

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: Sergeant Thomas Needham, Worcester Police Department
Officer Patrick Harrington, Worcester Police Department
Deborah Steele, Licensing

Minutes: February 20, 2025

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of February 20, 2025.

One Day Liquor & Entertainment Requests

- 1. Mens/Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, 102 Russell Street**
Request for one day liquor license
Request for one day entertainment license for dancing by patrons, dancing by entertainers, live music
 - Saturday-March 8, 2025-11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Michael Coonan, appeared upon behalf of the applications. He stated that these are for the annual Irish Festival and will have same set up and security as previous years.

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

List of Exhibits:

Exhibit A: Application for one day liquor license received and dated February 24, 2025.

Exhibit B: Application for one day entertainment license received and dated February 24, 2025.

2. **Elms Café & Catering, LLC, 446 Main Street**
Request for one day liquor license
Wednesday-March 26, 2025-5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Friday-April 11, 2025-11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday-April 23, 2025-5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Tuesday-March 11, 2025-3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Denise Kapulka Cariglia, participating remotely, stated that these events are at Top of the Tower and all the servers are TIPS Certified and reviewed the amount of people that would be at each event.

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

List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated February 26, 2025.

3. **Worcester Public Library Foundation, 3 Salem Square**
Request for one day liquor license
 - **Friday-May 2, 2025-6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.**

Christine Murray, participating remotely, stated that this is for their mini golf fundraiser.

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

List of Exhibit: Application for one day liquor license received and dated February 18, 2025.

4. **Stephen Hopkins, 266 Park Avenue-Outside**
Request for one day liquor license
 - **Sunday-March 16, 2025-11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Stephen Hopkins appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that this is his annual request for outside for the St. Patrick's Day Parade and will be same set up and security as previous years.

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 26, 2025.

Common Victualer Requests

5. **Skaff Petroleum, Inc., 334 Grafton Street**
Sunday Operating Hours*
4:30 am to 1:30 am
Monday Operating Hours*
4:30 am to 1:30 am
Tuesday Operating Hours*
4:30 am to 1:30 am
Wednesday Operating Hours*

4:30 am to 1:30 am
Thursday Operating Hours*
4:30 am to 1:30 am
Friday Operating Hours*
4:30 am to 1:30 am
Saturday Operating Hours*
4:30 am to 1:30 am

Jean Skaff, appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that they are adding food service to 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 13, 2025.

6. Scoop’s Scoopz, LLC, 807 Pleasant Street

Sunday Operating Hours*
1:00 PM-9:00 PM
Monday Operating Hours*
1:00 PM-9:00 PM
Tuesday Operating Hours*
1:00 PM-9:00 PM
Wednesday Operating Hours*
1:00 PM-9:00 PM
Thursday Operating Hours*
1:00 PM-9:00 PM
Friday Operating Hours*
1:00 PM-9:00 PM
Saturday Operating Hours*
1:00 PM-9:00 PM

Vaughn Slowski appeared upon behalf the application and stated that he is looking to open an ice cream shop.

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 27, 2025

7. Seabra Foods, 333 Pleasant Street

Sunday Operating Hours*
7:00AM-9:00PM
Monday Operating Hours*
7:00AM - 10:00PM
Tuesday Operating Hours*
7:00AM - 10:00PM
Wednesday Operating Hours*

7:00AM - 10:00PM
Thursday Operating Hours*
7:00AM - 10:00PM
Friday Operating Hours*
7:00AM - 10:00PM
Saturday Operating Hours*
7:00AM - 10:00PM

Adam Seabara, participating remotely and Felicio Lana, in person appeared upon behalf of the application. Mr. Seabara stating that they are looking to expand their brand, and they have 16 operating stores along the East Coast and looking to expand into Worcester.

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 28, 2025.

Alcohol/Entertainment Requests

8. Tasty Experience Bistro, 162 Harding Street

- **Request for entertainment license for dancing by entertainers, live music, theatrical exhibition**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the March 20, 2025, License Commission meeting.

9. Suzette, LLC, 126 Water Street

- **Request for change of manager**

Jean Luc Wittner, participating remotely, stating that he is applying to be the manager of the premises.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the change of manager.

List of Exhibits: Application for change of manager received and dated February 18, 2025.

10. Bistro Bar, Inc. dba Green Island Oyster Bar, 90 Harding Street

- **Request for restaurant all alcohol license**
- **Request for common victualer license**
- **Request for entertainment license for tv, recorded music**

Michael Covino appeared upon behalf of the application.

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

Mr. Covino stated that that this will be a new operation, and they will be open to 2:00 a.m. and no later than 11:00 p.m. in the outside area.

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

- **Request for restaurant all alcohol license**
- **Request for common victualer license**
- **Request for entertainment license for tv, recorded music**

List of Exhibits:

- A. Application for restaurant all alcohol license received and dated February 19, 2025.*
- B. Application for common victualer license received and dated February 19, 2025.*
- C. Application for entertainment license received and dated February 19, 2025.*

Violations

11. All Systems Go Enterprises, LLC, 225 Shrewsbury Street-Cessation of Business

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to rescind the liquor license due to cessation of business.

12. Three G's Entertainment, LLC, 152 Millbury Street Violation of Rules #6, #14, #28

Michael O'Bara appeared to answer to the violation and waived his right to counsel.

Sgt. Needham presented the following.

On January 3, 2025, members of the Alcohol Unit went to Three G's Sports Bar to conduct a compliance check.

Upon arrival Sergeant Needham asked the only bartender on duty to provide a current server training certificate and the bartender stated that he did not have one and was waiting on it.

A check of the other server training certificates showed that the owner/manager, Michael Obara, certificate was expired.

During the compliance check several suspicious liquor bottles that are not usually provided by liquor distributors were noted on the premises.

Officer Patrick Harrington met with the owner, Mr. Obara, on January 9, 2025, requesting to review the required liquor invoices that coincide with all alcohol on the premises. Mr. Obara told Officer Harrington he could not locate the copies of the invoices for the suspicious bottles found on premises on January 3, 2025, and as of this date the documentation has still not been provided to the Worcester Police Department.

Mr. O'Bara stated that the employee was a new employee, and he was waiting for his TIPS certification in the mail and his own certification was given to the License Commission during renewal period and he just didn't have it own the wall as he was waiting for all the licenses to come in the mail so he could laminate them.

Mr. O'Bara stated that he is a TIPS instructor.

Mr. O'Bara stated that he was unaware that he was required to keep the liquor invoices on the premises, and he had them at home but that was misunderstanding on his part and now has them on premises.

Mr. O'Bara that that he was unaware that the Jamieson bottle was even in building, and he did find that one of his employees had brought it into the bar and they have terminated that employee and had that bottle removed from the premises.

Mr. O'Bara stated that with regard to them being on the COD list with alcohol distributors he stated that while he was on vacation when he came back, he found out that an employee ran \$60,000 through the lottery machine illegally and they had to pay that back to the lottery which wiped out their accounts so wound up on the COD list. He stated that they have lost their lottery, and they have posted the bar up for sale and they have received multiple offers, and they plan to sell, and they are paying as they go to their distributors.

Mr. O'Bara stated that he also owns another location in Rutland which he has closed, and that liquor was brought to Worcester and was put in the basement which he misunderstood that rule.

He also stated that he had another nightclub on Vibrations that closed, and that alcohol also wound up at 152 Millbury Street and he stated there was bottles in the building when he bought it, and those bottles are still there, and he wouldn't have invoices on those.

Chair Vigliotti asked if Mr. O'Bara was the manager and owner.

Commissioner Fisher stated that her concern is that Mr. O'Bara stated that he is a TIPS instructor and doesn't understand rules such as bringing bottles from location to another location.

Officer Harrington asked Mr. O'Bara if he has the liquor invoices that he requested the date of the violation. Mr. O'Bara stated not for the Jamieson, and he explained that, but he would have to look for the other invoices for the older stuff and he has asked his distributor for copies which would be in a spread sheet format.

Officer Harrington stated that on date of violation he gave Mr. O'Bara his email address and asked Mr. O'Bara that as of that date has the information requested been sent to him. Mr. O'Bara stated no.

Chair Vigliotti asked if the employee was TIPS certified when the police came in. Mr. O'Bara stated that his understanding that it was coming in the mail to the employee. Mr. O'Bara stated that he believed the rule is that has to be within 30 days of employment person has to have TIPS certification.

Sgt. Needham stated that before employee can serve alcohol must have the certification. Mr. O'Bara stated that is not his understanding of the rule.

Sgt. Needham stated that when he asked the employee for the certification the employee stated that he was waiting to take the class.

Mr. O'Bara stated that his seven years at this location and he has never had a violation before the Commission.

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

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to impose a three-day suspension with one day served.

List of Exhibits: Police report dated February 15, 2025.

**13. Next Level Hospitality, LLC, 48 Green Street
Violation of Rules #14, #27**

Cameron Brigham appeared to answer to the violation and waived his right to counsel.

Sgt. Needham presented the following;

At approximately 10:35 p.m. Officer Harrington along with other members from the various units stopped at 1855 Restaurant and Bar located at 48 Green Street to observe the manner in which business was being conducted.

Upon approaching the premises, they observed the premises to be extremely busy with patrons waiting in line to enter.

Officer Harrington asked the employee monitoring the front door what the current occupancy was of the premises. Staff held up a cell phone that read 100 and then stated maybe 105.

While standing inside 1855 Restaurant investigators believed that occupancy number was not accurate. Note: per code & fire the max occupancy inside the premises is 115.

Fire Inspectors walked through the premises counting patrons utilizing a handheld manual clicker. Inspector Kevin Vescera counted 190 people and Inspector Domenic Palumbo counted 204. The premises was deemed a public safety risk for over occupancy.

All patrons were directed to the front exit and utilizing a Worcester Police body camera a count of patrons was conducted. The count of patrons out the front door and a count of staff and patrons still inside the front entrance was 148. Inspector Palumbo noted that an additional 84 patrons exited the side exit.

Mr. Brigham stated that he has gone to the Inspectional Division to see if he can increase occupancy, but it doesn't seem like problem from going from 115 to 165 based on plans he has provided.

Mr. Brigham stated that was first New Years eve open and staff had called out and he was trying to do multiple things, and he had asked the door person several times what the occupancy was and was told between 108 and 110.

Mr. Brigham stated that the following weekend after the incident he worked the door to see how it was going and the staff was using clicker on phone and he has change that to staff just using a clicker where you check them in and out and Sgt. Needham suggested that there should be two people on the door and he now does that at all time but he said there was no excuse for that many people that night.

Chair Vigliotti asked if there was any dispute of that occurred that evening. Mr. Brigham stated no.

Chair Vigliotti stated that there is a previous suspended suspension on the record.

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

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-1 (Chair Vigliotti voting no) to impose the two-day previous suspended suspension and another three-day suspension with one day served.

**14. Creed Lounge, Inc., 41 Pleasant Street
Violation of Rules #1, #7**

Calvin Paulino and Tony Marconi appeared and waived their right to counsel.

Sgt. Needham presented the following.

On January 24, 2025, the Worcester Police dispatch received a call from a concerned parent with regards to the Licensed Premises stated their son had called from the Licensed Premises and stated it was over capacity, and he was having trouble exiting the building.

A short time later at 2:00 a.m. Officer Harrington and other officers went to the Licensed Premises to conduct a compliance check and tried to gain entry and found the door to the Licensed Premises locked.

While looking through the windows and door Officer Harrington had an obstructed view of the License Premises from what appeared to be some sort of paint or tint.

Officer Harrington knocked on the door and was met by security who stated that they were closed for the night.

Officer Harrington observed patrons within the Licensed Premises.

Officer Harrington and the other officers proceeded up to the first-floor main bar area and observed approximately 200 patrons on the dance floor area. Officer Harrington observed that dozens of the patrons appeared to be very young and some were consuming alcohol.

A short time later Officer Harrington observed a very young female sitting at a table and requested an ID which she produced. Officer Harrington observed the ID was extremely poor in quality and the markings were faded without a raised seal.

The female initially stated that she was 22 years of age and short time later she stated that she was 19 and after checking her date of birth it was confirmed she was not of legal age to possess or consume alcohol.

A video from the police body surveillance camera was shown to the Commission.

Mr. Paulino stated that the reason they had door closed as they had so many people trying to get in, but they had security there to make sure it wouldn't go over capacity and there was a lot of fake ID's coming in they kick them out if find person with fake ID.

Mr. Paulino stated that there was over 200 people inside trying to get in and they were doing the best they could to control it. They have three security downstairs to control it. They have scanner but the fake ID's coming in are very good.

Mr. Marcano stated he asked in the past if he could have solid door and was told no but he knows there are other establishments in Worcester that have solid door you can't see in, and they just want to be treated fairly and they have a lot of homeless in the area and they have tried to break in.

Chair Vigliotti asked if door could be seen through as that has been discussed at other meetings and that has not been rectified. Mr. Marcano stated no it cannot be seen through, but they have security right at door.

Chair Vigliotti stated that there was person found under 21 at the premises that evening. Mr. Marcano stated that they had a Massachusetts ID, and they have been told been Boston there is some type of protection accepting that ID.

Mr. Marcano stated that he thinks memos should be sent to the colleges that there a lot of fake ID's going into establishments and they don't encourage the kids to come in, but they are a very popular place. They only want to attract junior/seniors who are of age.

Mr. Marcano stated that from the day they have opened they have also asked for a police detail and unless you have a friend who is a police officer they won't go.

Commissioner Cruz stated with regard to the fake ID's maybe they should get together with other establishments and discuss with Boston as not up to the local board.

Commissioner Cruz stated that also in the past it was discussed that the door had clear view but also like them to address how they address if there are 200 people trying to come in. Mr. Marcano stated they are good kids, and they have never had a problem with them it the fake ID's that is the problem.

Chair Vigliotti asked if they reach capacity they lock the door. Mr. Paulino stated yes, the main door is locked but people can get out as only locked from outside.

Commissioner Fisher stated that it would make sense not to paint that glass in front door that way people can see in and out.

Officer Harrington stated that it has to be an unobstructed view of the premises.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 that the violation had occurred.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted to impose a five-day suspension with two days to served.

List of Exhibits:

- A. Police Report dated February 4, 2025.*
- B. Flash drive of body camera video of incident*

Communications

None

Adjournment

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 a.m.