



License Commission, Room 118
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LICENSE COMMISSION MINUTES
Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.-Room 202
VIRTUAL and in person meeting

Attending: Chairperson Laura Angus, Commissioner Linda Koutoulas, Commissioner Patrick Driscoll, Lic. Clerk Jennifer Sanchez, Captain Wayne Tracy, HPD, Sargent Kevin Lynch, HPD.

1) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2.1 Approval of the minutes of August 3, 2023

Commissioner Driscoll said he reviewed the minutes, and they appear to be in order.

Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to approve the minutes. That was seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

2.2 Approval of the minutes of August 10, 2023.

Commissioner Koutoulas said she reviewed the minutes and they appeared to be in order, and she requests acceptance of the minutes.

Commissioner Koutoulas made a motion to approve the minutes. That was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

3) CONTINUED BUSINESS

NO SCHEDULE

4) MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS/ REQUESTS

4.1 Matthew Lonardo, Applicant

The Solid Slice Pizzeria LLC
d/b/a The Solid Slice Pizzeria
653 Broadway

-Application for Keno at the Solid Slice Pizzeria.

Matthew Lonardo appeared for this application. Commissioner Angus asked if this was a new Keno application. Matthew said yes it was. Commissioner Driscoll asked if he was familiar with how to operate the Keno. Matthew said yes, he is familiar with how to operate the Keno.

Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to approve the Keno application for the Solid Slice Pizzeria. That was seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

4.2 Deanna Gaiero, Manager

Joseph's Trattoria & Bakery, Inc.

d/b/a Joseph's Downtown

6-8 Moulton Way

-Approval of hours. Was previously approved for liquor license on August 3, 2023.

Items 4.2, 7.1, and 8.1 were heard together they were approval of the hours, common victualler and entertainment license for Joseph's Downtown. Deanna Gaiero appeared for these applications. Commissioner Angus spoke and said that Joseph's Downtown was already approved for a liquor License. The hours she is looking for are Sunday 12:30 to 10:30pm, Monday 4pm- 11pm, Tuesday 11:30am -11pm, Wednesday 11:30am-11pm, Thursday 11:30am - 11pm, Friday 11:30am- 12am, Saturday 11:30am-12am.

Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to approve the hours, common victualler license and entertainment license. That was seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

5) ONE DAY APPLICATIONS

5.1 Kim Dandurant, Applicant

Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Point

1280 Boston Road

-Application for one day all alcohol liquor license for the Armenian Dance on October 14, 2023, from 6:30pm to 12:00am.

Has Police Approval

Kim Dandurant appeared virtually for this application. This event is the Armenian Dance that is sponsored by the 4 Armenian Churches in the Merrimack Valley. They decided to have it at their church. They are expecting 275-300 people at the event.

Commissioner Koutoulas made a motion to accept this application. That was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

5.2 Gretchen Arntz, Applicant

Emmaus Inc.

127 How Street

Haverhill, MA 01830

-Application for one day beer and wine liquor license for the Cycle for Selter event at NECC on September 17, 2023, from 12 noon until 3:00pm.

Has police approval.

Gretchen Arntz appeared for this application. Gretchen was excited to announce that Cycle for Shelter is in its 35th year this year. This event is to raise money for Emmaus. Emmaus is an organization that helps the homeless population. A lot of charity events have incorporated a beer tent. This year they would like to have a beer tent. They are working with barewolf brewing.

They will be purchasing the alcohol from them.

Gretchen said that they have a procedure in place for having anyone over 21 wear a wrist band. Everyone gives their birth date at registration. They will be serving cans about 1 beer can per person at the tent. Sam Ambra and Simply Elegant will be serving the alcohol. Sam is the liquor provider and caterer at the college. Sam is the tips certified bar tender.

Commissioner Angus asked if them to add the city of Haverhill to the additionally insured on the liquor license policy. Commissioner Angus also asked if they could send over written permission for NECC to serve alcohol there.

Commissioner Koutoulas made a motion to approve this application pending the updated insurance and permission from NECC. That was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

6) BUSINESS CERTIFICATES

NO SCHEDULE

7) ENTERTAINMENT APPLICATIONS

7.1 Deanna Gaiero, Manager

Joseph's Trattoria & Bakery, Inc.

d/b/a Joseph's Downtown

6-8 Moulton Way

-New Entertainment Application. Has Police approval and entertainment zoning approval.

This item was heard together with items 4.2 and 8.1. Commissioner Angus said that she wants to have the live entertainment stop one half hour prior to closing. Commissioner Koutoulas and Commissioner Driscoll agreed. Commissioner Angus said she will limit the entertainment license to those hours so she can do last call and get everyone out by closing.

Commissioner Driscoll asked Deanna if she understands that the entertainers count against her occupancy number.

Deanna said yes, she does understand this.

The entertainment license was approved and limited to closing 30 minutes prior to the hours listed on their application.

Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to approve the hours, common victualler license and entertainment license. That was seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

7.2 Brett Yannalfo, Manager

P&S Restaurant Group, LLC

d/b/a The Roma Restaurant

29 Middlesex Street

-Application for new entertainment license. Pending entertainment zoning approval. Has Police Approval

Items 7.2 and 8.2 were heard together. Brett Yannalfo appeared for this application. Brett

appeared for this application. Commissioner Angus said Brett was previously approved for a restaurant liquor License. Commissioner Koutoulas said the live entertainment should end one half hour before the closing time. In this case it would be at 12:30.

Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to accept this application pending entertainment zoning approval and the entertainment hours would end a half hour before the applied for hours. That was seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

7.3 Danielle Maschetto, Manager

ACF LLC

d/b/a 978 Lounge

101-103 Washington Street

-New Entertainment License pending police approval, entertainment zoning, vote of the entity.

Items 7.3, 8.5, and 10.1 were taken together. They were applications for entertainment, common victualler and section 12 general on premises. Daniel Hutchinson, an attorney, Ana Frietas, and Danielle were present for the application. Attorney Hutchinson said the entertainment would end in advance of the closing hours.

Commissioner Driscoll said that that location has not had a good record of good businesses. He said to be aware of the quality of life of residents that also live downtown to be cautious of loud music and people loitering. Attorney Hutchinson said there would not be a DJ. They are asking for Karaoke, comedians, live bands with instruments. The live bands would be three instruments and a singer. He also said they understand that goes against their occupancy number.

Commissioner Koutoulas made a motion to approve the entertainment license pending police and zoning approval, common victualler, and the Section 12 general on premises license. That was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

7.4 Belle Lee, Manager

Friendly House of Pho, Inc.

d/b/a Friendly House of Pho

114 Washington Street

-New entertainment License pending police approval and entertainment zoning approval.

Items 7.4, 8.3 and 10.3 Attorney Bryan Chase appeared for this as well as William Rand and Belle Lee. Mr. Rand is purchasing the establishment from Mr. Hans. They are seeking a transfer of all current licenses. The manager Belle Lee has over 14 years of experience managing a restaurant.

Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to accept the entertainment license, common victualler and the section 12 all alcohol license . That was seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

7.5 Matthew Maynard, Manager

Primrose-Pizza Pros
d/b/a Romano's Pizza
620 Primrose Street

-Application for new entertainment license for radio and tv.
Pending entertainment license zoning approval and police approval.

Matthew Maynard appeared for the applications. Items 7.5 and 8.4 were taken together. Matthew is requesting to have radio and tv inside of the establishment. He plans on keeping everything mostly the same and adding a few specials. He has been the current manager at Romano's for quite some time.

Commissioner Koutoulas made a motion to accept the application for common victualler and entertainment. That was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

8) COMMON VICTUALLER APPLICATIONS

8.1 Deanna Gaiero, Manager

Joseph's Trattoria & Bakery, Inc.
d/b/a Joseph's Downtown
6-8 Moulton Way

-Application for new common victualler license.

This item was heard with items 4.2 and 7.1. Deanna appeared for these applications. The liquor license was previously approved. Deanna appeared for this application.

Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to approve the hours, common victualler license and entertainment license. That was seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

8.2 Brett Yannalfo, Manager

P&S Restaurant Group, LLC
d/b/a The Roma Restaurant
29 Middlesex Street

-Application for new common victualler License.

Brett appeared for this application. It was taken together with item 7.2. Brett was already approved for the restaurant liquor license and was here today to get approved for the entertainment and common victualler license.

Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to accept the common victualler application. That was seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

8.3 Belle Lee, Manager

Friendly House of Pho, Inc.,
d/b/a Friendly House of Pho
114 Washington Street

-Application for new common victualler license.
Pending notarized business certificate.

Items 7.4, 8.3, and 10.3 were heard together. Attorney Bryan Chase, William Rand and Belle Lee also appeared for the applications. Mr. Rand is purchasing the establishment and will have Belle Lee as the manager. They are seeking transfer of all current licenses.

Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to accept the entertainment license, common victualler and the section 12 all alcohol license. That was seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

8.4 Matthew Maynard, Manager

Primrose-Pizza Pros
d/b/a Romano's Pizza
620 Primrose Street

-Application for new common victualler license.
Pending purchase and sale and business occupancy.

Matthew Maynard appeared for this application. Items 7.5 and 8.4 were taken together. Matthew said he has lots of experience, he has been making pizza for 16 years. He has been managing Romano's for the last 12 years.

Commissioner Angus asked if he is planning on keeping the menu the same. Matthew said for the most part he will keep it the same and add some personalized specials.

Commissioner Koutoulas made a motion to accept the application for common victualler and entertainment. That was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

8.5 Danielle Moschetto, Manager

ACF LLC
d/b/a 978 Lounge
101-103 Washington Street

-Application for new common victualler license, pending entity vote, and business certificate.

Items 7.3, 8.5 and 10.1 were taken together. Attorney Daniel Hutchinson, Ana and Danielle were present for the application. They are planning on having limited hours at the beginning and will look at this in 8-9 months but are requesting the full hours now. They are also requested a general on premises license and entertainment license.

Commissioner Koutoulas made a motion to approve the entertainment license pending police and zoning approval, common victualler, and the Section 12 general on premises license. That was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll. No public comment, vote

unanimous, motion passed.

9) OUTDOOR DINING APPLICATIONS

No Schedule

10) ALCOHOL/ABCC APPLICATIONS

10.1 Danielle Moschetto, Manager

ACF LLC

d/b/a 978 Lounge

101- 103 Washington Street

-Application for new section 12 general on premises license. Pending updated corrected manager on page 1, entity vote, CORI for Ana, 304 inspection, tips, liquor liability.

Items 7.3, 8.5 and 10.1 were taken together. Attorney Daniel Hutchinson, Ana and Danielle were present for the application. Daniel said that the application was submitted, and the hours asked for are until 1am during the week and until 2am on Friday. Mr. Hutchinson said they do not intend on being open that late at the beginning but would like to have those hours approved for the future. They plan on closing at midnight at least for the first several months. Because of the location they do not want to be labeled as a last call bar and have issues. They also have plans to hire contract security. This would not be employees but an outside security company. They have automatic id machines they will be using so no one underage gets in. They are installing new cameras at the front and the rear of the building,

Ana will be the owner and Danielle will be the bar manager. They have a lot of experience.

Commissioner Koutoulas asked if they had any connection to the prior owner? Ana said no they do not.

Commissioner Koutoulas requested that they put in writing in an email what hours they plan on using at the beginning. She also requested that they notify us when they intend to extend those hours.

Commissioner Angus said one of the other concerns is to have the security staff direct people to leave the area and not just shut the doors. People have been known to mill in that area. With the residents above them that is not a great thing, and it also leads to problems.

Attorney Hutchinson said that because of the issues from before that is why they decided to hire their own security from a company. The company will have their own insurance and they will have standards they will have to follow.

Commissioner Angus asked them to ask the security company to keep that crowd moving, make sure they are not leaving the building and then congregating outside.

Commissioner Koutoulas also asked if they could let us know about the security company when they hire them so they can share that information with the police. The applicant agreed. Attorney Hutchinson said I am sure there is also an additional insured that you would want to have added onto the security insurance. The Commission told them that would be the City of Haverhill.

Commissioner Koutoulas made a motion to approve the entertainment license pending police and zoning approval, common victualler, and the Section 12 general on premises license. That was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

10.2 Vyomesh Patel, Manager

NESH LLC

d/b/a Town's Variety & Liquor

277 Groveland Street

-Application for transfer of section 15 package store all alcohol license.

Pending Business Occupancy

Current owners of Towns Variety were present for the application. Matthew Porter was also present online for this application. The applicants were also present but not able to hear due to technical difficulties. They are going to keep everything pretty much the same. They are going to give it a little update with new shelving and cosmetic updates. There will be no changes to the structure of the building or the hours. One of the partners of NESH LLC owns other locations and he is successful and has not had any issues. Vyomesh is the proposed manager. He is expected to 40-50 hours per week at the location.

All employees will be tips certified. They are going to get a state-of-the-art scanning machine. Rockland Trust is financing the purchase. There is also a pledge to Rockland Trust.

Commissioner Koutoulas and Commissioner Angus asked if they have cameras. Attorney Porter said yes, they do have security cameras. Commissioner Angus asked if they understand the rules and regulations regarding safe service. Attorney Porter said they do understand the rules and regulations around the service of alcohol.

Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to accept the application with pledge of license and inventory. That was seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

10.3 Belle Lee, Manager

Friendly House of Pho, Inc.

d/b/a Friendly House of Pho

114 Washington Street

-Application for transfer of section 12 all alcohol license. Pending 2 more bank statements from Haverhill bank, tips for all employees, 304 inspection.

Items 7.4, 8.3, and 10.3 were heard together. Attorney Bryan Chase, William Rand and Belle Lee also appeared for the applications. Belle Lee is the proposed manager and has multiple years of experience in the restaurant industry. For the last 14 years she has been the bartender and cook at New Moon Garden. Belle is tips certified and has a lot of knowledge about safe service of alcohol. Mr. Rand, the owner of the restaurant, he does not have any experience in the restaurant industry. Mr. Rand has already obtained insurance and he has experience running a business.

Commissioner Angus asked if they turned in the two additional statements from Haverhill Bank? Attorney Chase said that Haverhill Bank was opened up in July and they only have one statement so far but another is coming in a few days and they would submit this once they receive it.

Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to accept the entertainment license, common

victualler and the section 12 all alcohol license. That was seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

11) MOTOR VEHICLE APPLICATIONS

No Schedule

12) CARRY IN LICENSE APPLICATIONS

12.1 Chris White, Manager

CM Culinary LLC

d/b/a Hummingbird Nutritious Eats

87 Washington Street

-Application for Carry in License. Has Police approval. Pending insurance, tips, inspectional, health, and fire approvals.

Applicant requested to withdraw the application.

Commissioner Angus said they had originally applied for a carry in license and they have requested the Commission withdraw the application.

Commissioner Koutoulas made a motion to accept the withdrawal and place on file. That was seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. No public comment, vote unanimous, motion passed.

13) ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

No Schedule

14) SHOW CAUSE HEARING

15) COMMUNICATIONS

16) NO SCHEDULE

17) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NO SCHEDULE

18) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:48 PM pm by Commissioner Driscoll, seconded by Commissioner Koutoulas. Vote unanimous.