



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

LICENSE COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday March 6, 2025, at 6 PM-Room 202

Virtual and In-Person Meeting

Attending: Chairperson Laura Angus, Commissioner Linda Koutoulas (virtually), Commissioner Patrick Driscoll, Sgt. Kevin Lynch – Haverhill Police Department, Officer David Steed – Haverhill Police Department, and City Clerk Kaitlin M. Wright

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2.1 Approval of the minutes of the February 6, 2025 meeting

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2025 meeting.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

3. CONTINUED BUSINESS

4. MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS/REQUESTS

5. ONE DAY APPLICATIONS

6. BUSINESS CERTIFICATES

6.1. Sharbel Azzi, Manager

77 Washington St Restaurant,
Inc. d/b/a The Reserve
Steakhouse

77 Washington St

- Change of DBA - Change from The Reserve Restaurant to The Reserve Steakhouse

Items 6.1, 7.2, 8.3, and 10.3 were heard together.

Sharbel Azzi, applicant, was present for this application. Chairperson Angus inquired if the change of name would apply to all sections of the restaurant, and the applicant clarified it would apply to only the first and second floors.

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the change of d/b/a from The Reserve Restaurant to The Reserve Steakhouse.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

7. ENTERTAINMENT APPLICATIONS

7.1 Edgar Escalante, Manager

Teo's Tacos, LLC

Teo's Tacos

695 South Main Street

-Application for new Entertainment license for Monday through Thursday for the hours of 11 AM to 8 PM, Friday and Saturday for the hours of 10 AM to 10 PM, and Sunday for the hours 10 AM to 9 PM for radio and TV

- Has Police Department and Zoning Department approval

Items 7.1 and 8.1 were heard together.

Edgar Escalante, applicant, was present. Chairperson Angus inquired about the applicant's plans for this business, and the applicant stated they only wanted to sell food products. The Chairperson also asked about their experience in the restaurant industry: the applicant replied that they have "several years" of experience and own another restaurant in Lawrence, MA.

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the application for the Entertainment license for Monday through Thursday for the hours of 11 AM to 8 PM, Friday and Saturday for the hours of 10 AM to 10PM, and Sunday for the hours 10 AM to 9 PM for radio and TV, as well as the Common Victualler license for the same hours.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

7.2 Sharbel Azzi, Manager

77 Washington St Restaurant, Inc.

d/b/a The Reserve Steakhouse

77 Washington St

**-Application for amendment of Entertainment license, change of DBA
Change from The Reserve Restaurant to The Reserve Steakhouse**

Items 6.1, 7.2, 8.3, and 10.3 were heard together.



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

Sharbel Azzi, applicant, was present for this application. Chairperson Angus inquired if the change of name would apply to all sections of the restaurant, and the applicant clarified it would apply to only the first and second floors.

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the change of d/b/a from The Reserve Restaurant to The Reserve Steakhouse.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

8. COMMON VICTUALLER APPLICATIONS

8.1 Edgar Escalante, Manager

Teo's Tacos, LLC

Teo's Tacos

695 South Main Street

-Application for new Common Victualler license for Monday through Thursday for the hours of 11 AM to 8 PM, Friday and Saturday for the hours of 10 AM to 10 PM, and Sunday for the hours 10 AM to 9 PM

Items 7.1 and 8.1 were heard together.

Edgar Escalante, applicant, was present. Chairperson Angus inquired about the applicant's plans for this business, and the applicant stated they only wanted to sell food products. The Chairperson also asked about their experience in the restaurant industry: the applicant replied that they have "several years" of experience and own another restaurant in Lawrence, MA.

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the application for the Entertainment license for Monday through Thursday for the hours of 11 AM to 8 PM, Friday and Saturday for the hours of 10 AM to 10 PM, and Sunday for the hours 10 AM to 9 PM for radio and TV, as well as the Common Victualler license for the same hours.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

8.2 William Batista, Manager

Batista LLC

d/b/a Union Supermarket HL

420 Washington St



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

-Application for amendment to Common Victualler license, change of establishment name to JGB Supermarket & Restaurant

William Batista, applicant, was virtually present for this application. Chairperson Angus noted that the applicant had already submitted the change of name in their business certificate.

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the change of d/b/a from Union Supermarket HL to JGB Supermarket & Restaurant.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

8.3 Sharbel Azzi, Manager

77 Washington St Restaurant, Inc.

d/b/a The Reserve Steakhouse

77 Washington St

-Application for amendment of Entertainment license, change of DBA Change from The Reserve Restaurant to The Reserve Steakhouse

Items 6.1, 7.2, 8.3, and 10.3 were heard together.

Sharbel Azzi, applicant, was present for this application. Chairperson Angus inquired if the change of name would apply to all sections of the restaurant, and the applicant clarified it would apply to only the first and second floors.

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the change of d/b/a from The Reserve Restaurant to The Reserve Steakhouse.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

8.4 Crusttown, Inc

d/b/a Crusttown.

150 Washington St

-Application for amendment of Common Victualler license, Change of Hours - Change hours on Sunday from 12 PM to 10 PM to 12 PM to 1 AM

Items 8.4 and 10.2 were heard together.



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

Rafael Guzman, applicant and owner, was present for this application. The applicant stated there was a “discrepancy as [they] had always been open” from 12PM to 1AM on Sundays. Upon renewal of their application, the applicant was notified that their hours of operation did not reflect the business hours stated on their license. Chairperson Angus asked about the applicant’s Entertainment license, and the applicant explained they used a jukebox and occasionally hosted karaoke. The chairperson told the applicant that their Entertainment license hours would also need to be changed and reminded them that all entertainment activities must cease a half-hour before closing.

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to approve the application for amendment of Common Victualler license, Entertainment license, and ABCC application - Change of hours on Sunday from 12 PM to 10 PM to 12PM to 1 AM.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

9. OUTDOOR DINING APPLICATIONS

10. ALCOHOL/ABCC APPLICATIONS

10.1 Haverhill Ridgerunners Fish and Game Club, Inc d/b/a Haverhill

Ridgerunners Fish and Game Club 462 Kingsbury Ave

-Change of Manager - Stavros Dimakis, Manager Change of

Officers/Directors - Stavros Dimakis - President, Keith Ferreira - Vice

President, Robert DiBurro - Treasurer, Brandon Duke - Secretary, Charles Bailey - Director, and Joseph Davidowicz – Director

Stavros Dimakis, applicant, was present. Chairperson Angus reminded applicant that the Commission requires managers to be present on-site 40 hours a week, and inquired if this would be an issue as the applicant owns a second restaurant in Haverhill. The applicant claimed this was not an issue.

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to approve the joint application for change of Manager and Officers/Directors.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

10.2 Crusttown, Inc

d/b/a Crusttown

150 Washington St

**-Change of Hours - Change hours on Sunday from 12 PM to 10 PM
to 12 PM to 1AM**

Items 8.4 and 10.2 were heard together.

Rafael Guzman, applicant and owner, was present for this application. The applicant stated there was a “discrepancy as [they] had always been open” from 12PM to 1AM on Sundays. Upon renewal of their application, the applicant was notified that their hours of operation did not reflect the business hours stated on their license. Chairperson Angus asked about the applicant’s Entertainment license, and the applicant explained they used a jukebox and occasionally hosted karaoke. The chairperson told the applicant that their Entertainment license hours would also need to be changed and reminded them that all entertainment activities must cease a half-hour before closing.

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to approve the application for amendment of Common Victualler license, Entertainment license, and ABCC application - Change of hours on Sunday from 12 PM to 10 PM to 12PM to 1 AM.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

10.3 Sharbel Azzi, Manager

77 Washington St Restaurant, Inc.

d/b/a The Reserve Steakhouse

77 Washington St

-Change of d/b/a - Change from The Reserve Restaurant to The Reserve Steakhouse

Items 6.1, 7.2, 8.3, and 10.3 were heard together.

Sharbel Azzi, applicant, was present for this application. Chairperson Angus inquired if the change of name would apply to all sections of the restaurant, and the applicant clarified it would apply to only the first and second floors.



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the change of d/b/a from The Reserve Restaurant to The Reserve Steakhouse.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

11. MOTOR VEHICLE APPLICATIONS

12. CARRY IN LICENSE APPLICATIONS

13. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

13.1 Robert LaPierre

Bradford Village Square, LLC

d/b/a Bradford Village Square

109 South Main Street

-Failure to provide receipts of returned alcohol

Robert LaPierre, owner, was not present for this discussion. Chairperson Angus noted that the applicant provided a license from the ABCC allowing them to liquidate their alcohol inventory and sell it to Big Dawg's Eatery, 75 South Main St, now under ownership of Robert LaPierre.

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to place all pertaining information on file.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

14. SHOW CAUSE HEARING

14.1 Charle Maroun, Manager

CM Direct of MA LLC

d/b/a Smith's Tavern

124 Essex Street

-Show cause hearing: Failure to renew your Common Victualler license and Entertainment license

Hearing continued from February 6, 2025 meeting.

Charle Maroun, manager, and Sgt. Kevin Lynch were present for this hearing. Sgt. Lynch testified that on Sunday November 10th, 2024, at approximately 1:56AM, a patrol officer observed a woman leaning over in the driver's seat of a running, parked car, her mouth open. The officer opened the door and found her dazed and confused, with a strong odor of alcohol coming from her breath. She told the officer she was drinking at Smith's Tavern. Sgt. Lynch attempted multiple times to



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

request camera footage from the establishment and was eventually told that the available footage would not include the date of the incident. She was arrested after attempting to leave the scene upon being requested to perform a field sobriety test. She was then found to have a BAC well over the legal limit. Charle Maroun was sworn in. The manager stated that their establishment closes at 12AM on Saturday nights, claiming that the woman was therefore lying about the whereabouts of her last consumption of alcohol. The manager explained that his late response to Sgt. Lynch was due to recently changing his phone number, though he erroneously believed he had submitted the change to the License Commission. He also explained that they had recently switched over from SD to HD TV footage and did not realize this change would limit the memory to 15 days.

Chairperson Angus asked if they had witnessed an intoxicated woman the night of the incident, to which they asserted they had not. Commissioner Koutoulas asked Sgt. Lynch if it was possible for an individual to have such a high BAC two hours after their last drink – the Seargent replied it was. The Chairperson told the manager that, should they change their contact information again, they must submit this information to the Commission immediately.

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions that the manager update his video footage retention to a minimum of 30 days, within one week. The Commissioner also insisted on the importance of not overserving alcohol.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

14.2 Julie Maloof, Manager

American Veterans of Haverhill Massachusetts, Inc.

d/b/a AMVETS

576 Primrose Street

-Show cause hearing: Alleged violation of 204 CMR 2.05 (2) Permitting an illegality on the licensed premises to wit

-Incident that occurred on or about February 1, 2025, at 21:43

Sgt. Kevin Lynch, Officer David Steed, AMVETS President Paul Riopelle, AMVETS Manager Desire' Thurber (previously Assistant Manager on the date of the incident), and Attorney Scott Gleason, representing AMVETS, were present. Sgt. Lynch testified that officers were dispatched to 576 Primrose Street for a reported bar fight. The officers found a male party, whose face was covered in blood, on the ground with a group of people surrounding him. The officers



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

described the scene as “chaotic.” Although review of footage was hindered by the camera angle, one of the officers did confirm that a brawl had ensued following the attack on the discovered male party, causing a woman to fall and receive a back injury as a result. Two males were summoned to court following this incident.

Attorney Gleason and AMVETS did not have a dispute with Sgt. Lynch’s recitation or the police report. The attorney stated that Desire’ Thurber was the one to call the police when the incident occurred, once when the altercation first transpired indoors and a second time when the attack ensued outside of the AMVETS bar. The attorney claimed that Ms. Thurber and Doorman Justin Woolf took immediate action in response to the incident and that AMVETS has fully cooperated with the police following the incident. The attorney also stated that AMVETS are changing their hours on Friday and Saturday nights to ensure all patrons vacate by midnight, as well as adding a second doorman for extra security. Having provided this information, the attorney expressed his hope that the Commission would take the organization’s remedial efforts into consideration. Officer David Steed, answering a question from Chairperson Angus, stated that most of the crowd at the site of the incident was intoxicated but that the individuals involved in the fight were more heavily intoxicated and more uncooperative than present bystanders. The officer remarked that the atmosphere was heated, and that it was difficult to understand the details of the incident from the crowd.

Desire’ Thurber was sworn in. Chairperson Angus quoted a witness’ testimony that the two male parties involved in the fight were previously at an event upstairs, and the Manager confirmed that there had been a fundraiser event. The Chairperson asked if this event was monitored by staff, and Ms. Thurber replied they had a doorman and bartender present the entirety of the event. Going by the witness’ testimony, Chairperson Angus inquired why the two parties were allowed to continue consuming alcohol following the initial argument, but the manager stated that the argument had never occurred during the fundraiser and that the witness was not present at its site. She further clarified that the fundraiser event was not shut down but had ended prior to the altercation, and that all lingering attendees came downstairs between 7:30-8PM while the altercation occurred at 9:43PM. Chairperson Angus asked if none of the staff noticed that the two parties were overly intoxicated, to which Ms. Thurber claimed that all individuals present appeared to be friendly and in a pleasant mood. The Chairperson also asked if she was aware of how many drinks the two parties had consumed upstairs: the manager answered that the upstairs bartender informed her that no one had consumed an excess amount of alcohol and that there were no individuals that should not be served. Chairperson Angus expressed their concern that the two



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

parties were evidently overserved after 8PM as their levels of intoxication were found to be high after the fight, but Ms. Thurber claimed she did not serve them more than one drink each. Commissioner Driscoll asked if it was common for attendees of a function to later come to the main bar area, and Ms. Thurber said it depends. As the two male parties were not members of the AMVETS club, Chairperson Angus inquired who had sponsored them. The manager said she believed no member did, to which the Chairperson stated that this was a violation of the club's private membership rules. Ms. Thurber was also unaware if the members were signed into an attendance book that evening, to which Commissioner Driscoll expressed the importance of enforcing this action, and Ms. Thurber claimed that they have since the incident. Commissioner Koutoulas asked if the fundraiser event was sponsored by a member of the club. When Ms. Thurber replied that it was not, rather rented to an outside party, the Commissioner commented that this was also a violation as a club member needs to sponsor any events taking place in a private club, as well as be in attendance for the duration of the event. Commissioner Driscoll stated furthermore that any non-members that came to the main bar area from the event space still needed to be signed in and supervised by a club member.

Chairperson Angus then asked Ms. Thurber how long she had been the new manager. Ms. Thurber she had only been promoted the previous week on March 1st, and that she was previously Assistant Manager for approximately one year. Chairperson Angus inquired how long had Julie Maloof, the manager on license record, been gone from AMVETS, but Ms. Thurber did not know that information. Attorney Gleason commented that, following Ms. Maloof's departure, there had already been a new manager appointed before Ms. Thurber's promotion. The attorney stated that corrective actions were being taken regarding this lack of information. Commissioner Koutoulas asked if the club had filed for an application change to reflect their new manager, to which Ms. Thurber answered she had not as of yet. The Commissioner further remarked that the previous manager had never been approved by the Commission, and asked if they would submit a change of hours to the ABCC. Ms. Thurber replied that she could but this was not previously planned, as the new change of hours was simply adopted as a club rule.

Chairperson Angus expressed her concern that AMVETS were already on probation following a summons in November 2024, where the required change-of-manager paperwork was also brought up. City Clerk Wright then added that Julie Maloof had already been let go in August 2023. Chairperson Angus and Commissioner Koutoulas agreed that the severity of both previous incidents indicated a strong need for repercussions. Recognizing the current staff's recent remedial efforts, Commissioner Driscoll suggested he was confident that the club



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

would follow up appropriately but Commissioner Koutoulas did not share the same faith. Chairperson Angus recalled that AMVETS had previously been given a 6-month probation in June 2023 in addition to their current probation from November 2024.

Paul Riopelle, President of the board, was sworn in. Mr. Riopelle explained he was promoted from Vice President between June-July 2024, following the retirement of the previous president, John Tyler. He claimed he had a “zero-tolerance” policy for any incidents of disorderly conduct, that he can always be reached by his staff over cell phone, and that he had handled this incident proactively. Commissioner Koutoulas inquired if Mr. Riopelle was already President in November 2024, to which Mr. Riopelle explained he was and that it was his understanding that pertaining paperwork had already been submitted by a different staff member to reflect this change. He then stated that he adjusted the club’s camera angles, following the incident, in order to have a better view in the future. When Chairperson Angus brought up the November 2024 incident, Mr. Riopelle claimed he had immediately terminated a bartender working on that date. Commissioner Driscoll reminded the new president of the importance of signing in members and their guests.

Chairperson Angus asked why the new president still had not submitted paperwork reflecting the change in question. Mr. Riopelle claimed he had signed and notarized the necessary paperwork and that he believed it was submitted. City Clerk Wright responded that the application had been received but that it was incomplete, the previous Manager having been notified.

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to enter a Violation of 204 CMR 2.05 (2) on record and to extend the probationary period another 6 months until November 7, 2025, as well as enforcing an early close at 10PM for the weekends of March 7th-9th and March 14th-16th.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions for AMVETS to be required to:

- Have their probationary period extended another 6 months until November 7, 2025
- Close early at 10 PM for the next two weekends - March 7, 8, and 9 and March 14, 15, and 16.
- Hold an in-person TIPS re-certification for all staff members, including door people, and send new certifications to the License Clerk once completed



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

- Install cameras in the upper-level function area within 10 days of the meeting and notify the License Clerk once completed.
- Develop a safety plan for function area events, send to Sgt. Kevin Lynch to review, and present safety plan at the April 3, 2025 meeting
- Submit a complete change of manager application to the License Commission Clerk for the April meeting (due by March 27, 2025).

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

16. OTHER BUSINESS

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

No Public Comment.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas K. Flynn

License Commission Clerk