

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

April 29, 2021

Commission Members Participating: Walter Shea, Chairman
Anthony Vigliotti, Commissioner
Barbara Haller, Commissioner - Logged in at 10:05 a.m.

Commission Members Absent: None

Staff Participating: Stephen Rolle, Planning & Regulatory Services
Lt. James Johnson, Worcester Police Department
Jennifer Beaton, 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**.

The meeting will be livestreamed from the City Website at www.worcesterma.gov/video-on-demand and may be broadcast on the local government cable channel (Spectrum Channel 192). While no in-person attendance will be permitted, every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings. In addition, a video recording and meeting minutes will be posted at www.worcesterma.gov after the meeting.

To participate during the public comment portion of the meeting, you may:

- Use the following link to join the meeting via computer <https://cow.webex.com/meet/licensecommissionwebex>
or
- Call **415-655-0001 (Access Code: 160 660 9360)** for the License Commission.

If you have difficulty accessing the call, please e-mail planning@worcesterma.gov.

Application materials may be viewed on the City Website at <http://www.worcesterma.gov/planning-regulatory/boards/license-commission>. For more information concerning this meeting, to request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation, or to **submit written comments** in advance of the meeting, please contact the Planning Division by email (preferred) at planning@worcesterma.gov or phone at (508) 799-1400 x 31440. Submission of comments in advance of the hearing is strongly encouraged. Note: interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Call to Order – 10:00 a.m.

Minutes – April 15, 2021 –

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of April 14, 2021

Common Victualer Requests

- None

Liquor Application Requests

Items #1 and #7 were taken contemporaneously

1. Bay State Brewery & Tap Room, LLC, 112 Harding Street

- Request for alteration of premises (inside)-approved

7. OD-2021-007-Bay State Brewery & Tap Room 112 Harding Street (alcohol & food)

Request for outdoor dining permit for 64 tables and 384 Seats Hours: Monday – Sunday – 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Shawn Rich from Bay State Brewery & Tap Room, LLC called in for the applications. He stated that they are looking to expand the inside premises to include additional skating rinks and front area inside for certain events. He stated that they are also looking to expand their outdoor dining permit. They currently have outside patio but would like to apply for the temporary outdoor permit for 64 tables and 384 seats and stated that outside area will not be used all the time. It will only be used for certain events and they could provide Worcester Police a list of dates when they'll use the outside area.

The Commission and Mr. Rich reviewed the PowerPoint slides of the set up for the outside area and how the area would be secured.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the permanent outdoor dining request and the temporary outdoor dining request.

Exhibit A. Application for alteration of premises received March 24, 2021 and dated March 24, 2021.

Exhibit B: Application for temporary outdoor dining permit received March 24, 2021 and dated March 24, 2021.

1. Sampson Tona, dba Ash Liquors, 1067 Main Street

- Request for package store malt & wine license

Upon a call the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the May 13, 2021 License Commission meeting.

2. Anokye Krom, LLC, 2 Coes Square

- a. Request for entertainment license for jukebox, TV, radio, dancing by patrons, recorded music, live music, amplification system, light show, karaoke, any other audio or visual show whether live or recorded specifically

Benedicta Boateng called in for the item. Ms. Boateng stated she was looking for entertainment license for her premises. The Commission members reminded Ms. Boateng that she would still need to follow COVID-19 regulations until they are lifted. Ms. Boateng reviewed the procedures she has in place.

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

Exhibit A. Application for alteration of premises received February 1, 2021 and dated February 1, 2021.

Retail Marijuana License

3. Major Bloom, LLC, 76 Millbury Street

- a. Request for Retail Marijuana License
Hours: Monday-Saturday – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Ulysses Youngblood called in for the application. He stated that he had received approval from the Planning Board and is now seeking approval from the License Commission for the license.

The Commission and Mr. Youngblood reviewed the plan for the premises and security proposed.

The Commission asked Mr. Youngblood to provide update 30 days prior to opening the establishment.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the Retail Marijuana License with condition that the applicant provide update 30 days prior to opening the business.

Exhibit A. Application for alteration of premises received March 15, 2021 and dated March 15, 2021.

Alteration of Premises – Temporary Outdoor Dining (New)

4. OD-2021-005- 4th and 1 Club, 7 Muskeego Street (alcohol and food)

- a. Request for outdoor dining permit for 9 tables with 54 seats

Hours: Monday thru Sunday – Noon-12:30 a.m

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to allow for Leave to Withdraw of the Outdoor Dining Permit.

Other Business

4th and 1 Club, 7 Muskeego Street

Status hearing

A status hearing was held on the license as the License Commission and the Worcester Police Department had received complaints regarding noise, unruly patrons, neighborhood disturbances and reports of non-compliance with COVID-19 protocols.

Robert Ginisi called in for the item.

The Worcester Police provided a background of some of the complaints received and the Commission reviewed the emails they had received.

Neighbors of Biscuit Lofts adjacent to the premises stated that they have concerns about the noise and problems from the establishment but want to work with license holder to see if something can be done.

Mr. Ginisi stated that the back parking area is used by multiple license holders on the street so a lot of the complaints are coming from people leaving the parking area and not necessarily coming from his establishment.

The Commission asked Mr. Ginisi to meet with Lt. Johnson and review the concerns and asked Lt. Johnson to review police reports and bring the matter back to the Commission next week.

Upon a roll call the item was continued to the May 3, 2021 License Commission meeting.

5. OD-2021-006, SW-002- Che Empanada, 19 Kelley Square (food only)

- a. Request for outdoor dining permit for 10 tables with 20 seats

Hours: Monday – Saturday – 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Sunday-Closed

Alba Alvarez called in for the application. A portion of this application was approved at the last meeting so that staff could do site view of the location of the additional area proposed. Mr. Rolle stated he had viewed the site and the applicant would just need to submit a revised drawing with the boundary 10 feet deep to the north of the entrance and to the south 8 feet, but it will still be one of the largest outdoor sidewalk dining in city with more than enough room for the tables.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit.

Exhibit A. Application for temporary outdoor permit received and dated March 20, 2021.

6. OD-2021-003 El Basha, Inc., 424 Belmont Street (alcohol & food)

- a. Request for outdoor dining permit for 4 tables with 16 seats

Hours: Monday-Thursday – 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday – 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the May 13, 2021 License Commission meeting.

7. OD-2021-007 – Gong Cha, 24 Southbridge Street (food only)-approved

- a. Request for outdoor dining permit for 5 tables with 10 seats

Hours: Monday – Sunday- 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Jason Vuong called in for the application. The Commission members and the applicant reviewed the outdoor dining permit. Mr. Vuong stated he will not be serving customers. Customers will come in and buy item and then go outside to sit at one of the tables.

Mr. Rolle asked that the applicant just keep the walking path in the middle of the sidewalk at between six and seven feet.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit.

Exhibit A. Application for temporary outdoor permit received and dated April 24, 2021.

8. OD-2021-002 – Taco Caliente, 226 Chandler Street (alcohol & Food)-approved

- a. Request to amend outdoor dining permit to add tent to outside area

Hours: Monday-Wednesday: 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Sunday; 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

No one called in for the application. Lt. Johnson stated that he had viewed the site.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the temporary outdoor dining permit.

Exhibit A. Application for temporary outdoor permit received and dated April 30, 2021.

9. OD-2021-008 – Acacia Grill, 1105 West Boylston Street (food only)-postponed 5/6/2021

- a. Request for outdoor dining permit for 2 tables with 8 seats

Hours: Monday, closed, Tuesday – Thursday – 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Friday, Saturday – 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the May 3, 2021 License Commission meeting.

10. OD-2021-009 – New Tradition, LLC, 7 Jackson Street (food only)-approved

- a. Request for outdoor dining permit for 7 tables with 24 seats

Hours: Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. – Noon, Saturday, Sunday – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Chuck Weiss called in for the application and reviewed the outdoor set up proposed.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the temporary outdoor dining permit.

Exhibit A. Application for temporary outdoor permit received and dated April 30, 2021.

Parking Lot Applications

11. Edward Murphy 15 Millbury Street

- a. Request for Parking Lot license for 15 spaces

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the item to the May 3, 2021 License Commission meeting.

12. Canal District Parking, LLC, 172 Washington Street

- Request for Parking Lot license for 20 spaces

Allan Fletcher called in for the application. Mr. Fletcher stated that they are looking for license for public parking.

Mr. Rolle stated that this is a long stand parking lot and the only question staff had was how many spaces there were as it looks like only has 17 striped space and after speaking with the applicant they intend to use the other 3 for valet parking.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the Parking Lot license for 20 spaces.

Exhibit A. Application for parking lot license received electronically April 12, 2021 and dated April 12, 2021.

13. Canal District Parking, LLC, 182 Harding

- Request for Parking Lot license for 20 spaces

Mr. Fletcher called in for the application but stated that proper address should be 182 Washington Street.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the Parking Lot License for 20 spaces with address correction to 182 Washington Street.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the Parking Lot license for 20 spaces.

Exhibit A. Application for parking lot license received electronically April 12, 2021 and dated April 12, 2021.

14. Canal District Parking, LLC, 9 Langdon Street

- Request for Parking lot license for 150 cars

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the item to the May 3, 2021 License Commission meeting.

15. Canal District Parking, LLC, 156 Washington, 7-3 Lamartine Street

- a. Request for Parking Lot license for 130 cars

Mr. Fletcher called in for the application. He stated that this is a combination of three lots.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the Parking Lot license for 130 cars.

Exhibit A. Application for parking lot license received electronically April 12, 2021 and dated April 12, 2021.

16. Allen W. Fletcher, 121 Green Street-approved

- a. Request for Parking Lot license for 121 Green Street

Mr. Fletcher called in for the application.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the Parking Lot license for 13 spaces.

Exhibit A. Application for parking lot license received electronically April 12, 2021 and dated April 12, 2021.

17. Communications

- a. None