



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

Monday, March 14, 2024

Commissioners

Present: Charran Fisher, Commissioner

Martiza Cruz, Commissioner

Commissioners

Absent:

Anthony Vigliotti, Chair

Staff Present:

Alexandra Kalkounis, Worcester Law Department

Paul Payer, Worcester Law Department

Sergeant Thomas Needham, Worcester Police Department

Deborah Steele, Licensing

Minutes: February 29, 2024, March 4, 2024

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of February 29, 2024, and March 4, 2024.

One Day Liquor & Entertainment Requests

1. Worcester Public Library Foundation, 3 Salem Square *Friday, May 3, 2024-6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Christine Murray, participating remotely, stated that this event is a mini golf event which raises money for the library. This will be the third annual event at the Library.

Sergeant Needham stated that this event has been done in the past with no issues.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the one-day liquor licenses.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated February 12, 2024.

Common Victualer Requests

- 2. New Golden Pizza, 1137 Grafton Street
 - Sunday-Saturday-11:00 a.m. Midnight

No one appeared for item.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to postpone the application to the March 28, 2024, License Commission meeting.

3. Ita's Pizza Kitchen, 453 Lincoln Street

• Sunday-Saturday-11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

Carmella Besong appeared upon behalf of the application. She stated that she is taking over this location and will be selling pizza and subs.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the common victualer license.

List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated February 24, 2024.

4. BFG Bajas Fresh Grill VIII, LLC, 667 West Boylston Street

- Sunday-Thursday-10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
- Friday, Saturday-10:00 a.m. 11:00 p.m.

Ken appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that they already have these restaurants in Rhode Island, and they are now establishing a location in Worcester.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the common victualer license.

List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated March 6, 2024.

Alcohol/Entertainment Requests

5. Home of Flavors, Inc., dba Ju's Bar and Grille, 102 Green Street

- Request for transfer of restaurant all alcohol license from Dream Catcher Farm
- Request for common victualer

Juarez Iansen appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that his wife and himself will be taking over the location and asking the licenses to be transferred to them.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the transfer of the restaurant all alcohol license and the common victualer license.

List of Exhibits: Application for transfer of restaurant all alcohol license received and dated February 21, 2024.

6. Resuli, LLC, dba Sister's Breakfast and Lunch, 171 Stafford Street

• Request for restaurant malt & wine license

Ira Resuli, participating remotely, stated that she is applying for a restaurant malt & wine license.

Commissioner Fisher stated that she remembered that the applicant was before the Commission prior attempting to obtain a full liquor license and that was denied and now this is just request a beer and wine request.

Staff requested Ms. Resuli review the hours of the business. Ms. Resuli stated that the hours would be Monday thru Saturday – 6:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and Sundays 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Fisher reminded the applicant that no alcohol service is allowed before 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the restaurant malt & wine license.

List of Exhibits: Application for restaurant malt & wine license received and dated December 10, 2023.

7. GV Lounge Kelley Square, LLC, 11 Kelley Square

• Request for general on premises all alcohol license

The applicant was having trouble logging in remotely.

Commissioner Fisher stated that the Commission had viewed the property prior to the meeting and there are several fire/code issues that will need to be resolved before they can open but the Commission can move forward with the liquor application approval.

Sergeant Needham reiterated that applicant was made aware that the occupancy permit will need to be issued.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the general on premises all alcohol license.

List of Exhibits: Application for general on premises all alcohol license received and dated January 5, 2024.

8. Vejigantes DTW, LLC, 55 Pearl Street

- Request for restaurant all alcohol license
- Request for common victualer license
- Request for entertainment license for dancing by patrons, live music, recorded music, DJ

Attorney Michael Vigorito along with Hector Pina and Natalie Rodriguez appeared upon behalf of the applications.

Mr. Vigorito gave a brief review of the background of the applicants and the menu that is proposed for the location. The hours for the business would be Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to Midnight, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from Noon to Midnight, Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Commissioner Cruz stated that she is excited for this to come to Worcester.

Upon a motion made and seconded the Commission voted 2-0 to approve

- Request for restaurant all alcohol license
- Request for common victualer license
- Request for entertainment license for dancing by patrons, live music, recorded music, DJ

List of Exhibits:

- A. Application for restaurant all alcohol license received and dated February 29, 2024.
- B. Application for common victualer licenser received and dated February 29, 2024.
- C. Application for entertainment license received and dated February 29, 2024.

9. Kwik Pik, Inc., 557 Southwest Cutoff

- Request for change of officers directors
- Request for transfer of stock

Attorney Dan Cotton, participating remotely, stated that he is requesting a change of officers/directors and transfer of stock for his client.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted to 2-0 to approve the change of officers directors and transfer of stock.

List of Exhibits: Application for change of officers directors and change of stock received and dated February 24, 2024.

10. A&D Pizza Corp, 366 Chandler Street

- Request for transfer of common victualer malt & wine license from Leo's Pizza
- Request for common victualer license

Attorney Matthew Porter along with Alpesh Patel and Sweetybean Patel appeared upon behalf of the applications. Attorney Porter stated that this is a request to transfer of the licenses. He stated that both of the new owners are TIPS certified and have owned pizza establishments.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the transfer of the common victualer malt& wine license and the common victualer license.

List of Exhibits: Application for transfer of common victualer malt&wine license and common victualer license received and dated February 12, 2024.

11. Jay Sedhima, LLC, 68 Stafford Street, #12

 Request to transfer package store all alcohol license to 68 Stafford Street #15

Attorney Matthew Porter along with Rohit Patel appeared upon behalf of the application. Mr. Porter stated that the package store is just moving two stores down in the plaza.

Upon a motion made and duly second the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the transfer of the package store all alcohol license to 68 Stafford Street #15.

List of Exhibits: Application for transfer of package store all alcohol license to 68 Stafford Street #15 received and dated February 24, 2024.

Other

12. Lara Hookah Bar, Inc., 267 Lincoln Street

- Request to amend hours on liquor/entertainment license from 7:00 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Sunday through Saturday to 7:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Sunday through Saturday
- Request for common victualer license

Saif Handhal appeared upon behalf of the request. He stated that he would like to amend his hours for his location.

The Commission had brief discussion on what the new amended hours would be.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the amended hours of

Monday-Saturday-5:00 p.m.- 2:00 a.m., Sunday-10:00 a.m.-2:00 a.m.

13. Public Hearing on Rule #37-Bottle Service and proposed Rules & Regulations.

Commissioner Fisher read into the record a letter from Councilor King in support of allowing bottle service.

Attorney Mark Bornstein stated that he had reviewed the draft provided by the Law Department and he would support it with few minor tweaks and thanked Councilor King for his support in the matter.

Attorney Kalkounis stated that the Commission had received the draft proposal and a few edits will be made and what is left for the Commission to decide is whether the Commission wants a bottle host or a lock box.

Commissioner Fisher stated that she is in support of the host as the lock box is another cost to the license holder.

Attorney Mark Bornstein stated that he would suggest that each applicant would bring forward the number servers for each proposed operation as each license operation is different. Commissioner Fisher and Cruz stated they would agree would that.

Attorney Kalkounis stated that if an establishment is approved by the Commission that would be a condition on the license. So, the Commission will need to approve what is submitted by the applicant.

Attorney Kalkounis stated that the way this will work that if the Commission approves the amendment at today's meeting and then at the next meeting and application and fee will be discussed and voted on and application will be available next day.

Julius Kumah stated that his experience with bottle service the wait staff doesn't leave unless they have to get something.

Tony from Creed Lounge stated that what would work for him is having one server for three tables and when you have too many people it hard to watch and they make more money selling drinks then doing bottle service and they think this would be great for the City as it will keep people here instead of going to Providence or Boston and this will help all the bars and restaurants and they will do whatever required to do to comply with the City.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to close the public hearing.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the amendment to Rule #37 relative to Bottle Service.

List of Exhibits: Letter from Councilor Khrystian King dated March 14, 2024.

Adjournment

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 a.m.