



**LIQUOR COMMISSION MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021 AT 4:00 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
111 SOUTH CAPITOL STREET
PEKIN, ILLINOIS 61554**

Fire Chief Trent Reeise called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

The **PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE** was led by Chief Trent Reeise.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call: Fire Chief Trent Reeise, Deputy Chief Jeff Little, Commission Member Dr. Timm Schwartz, and Commission Member Judy Heisel.

Also present: Attorney Katherine Swise, Liquor Commission Secretary Nicole Stewart, Fire Captain Jamie Evans, and City Engineer Josie Esker.

Absent: Liquor Commissioner Mark Luft and Deputy Liquor Commissioner Rick VonRohr.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Police Chief John Dossey, seconded by Commission Member Dr. Timm Schwartz to approve the May 27, 2021 agenda. On roll call vote all present voted Aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Commission Member Dr. Timm Schwartz, seconded by Judy Heisel to approve the Commission meeting minutes dated May 27, 2021. On roll call vote all present voted Aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

No public input was received.

NEW BUSINESS

Application: The Bunker – Golf Incorporated, 1320 El Camino

City Attorney, Kate Swise, reviewed the application and had no objections. A motion was made by Commission Member Dr. Timm Schwartz seconded by Deputy Chief Little to approve a liquor license to The Bunker – Golf Incorporated. On roll call vote all present voted Aye. Motion carried.

Alcoholic Liquor Code Changes Re: “To Go” Sales of Cocktails and Single Servings of Wine

City Attorney, Kate Swise, explained that the request was to allow bars to sell premade cocktails and single servings of wine to go. The Governor had signed two bills relating to alcohol sales that included cocktails to go in sealed packaged containers with no third party or over 21 years of age delivery through January 2024. Ms. Swise informed the members that the Mayor had allowed this during COVID and the question was if the members wanted to make it permanent. The State was allowing post COVID continued delivery of alcohol sales of cocktails and mixed drinks to go but with regard to packaged liquor the State had preempted home rule power.

Deputy Chief Little stated that he had not heard of any issues or arrests of anyone being in violation.

Commission Member Dr. Timm Schwartz felt it made sense to be in step with the State from a logical standpoint. Dr. Schwartz thought that some people might have objections but felt it had not been a problem.

Ms. Swise advised that the Mayor was a sponsor of the bill as an IL State Representative and the bill had a sunset provision after three years. Ms. Swise advised that the Mayor stated it was his intention to try it out and if no issues to make it permanent. Ms. Swise explained that the Mayor/Liquor Commissioner allowed cocktails to go by declaration last summer that mirrored the State. The State law allows cocktails or mixed drinks or single servings of wine to go at retail locations for off premise consumption transferred over the bar, curbside or delivery by employee. Delivery methods would not include DoorDash or Grubhub. The delivery person must be a Basset trained employee of the retail location. Alcohol must be placed in the trunk or rear department of the vehicle with labeling requirements for package in its place. Drive-thru's are prohibited.

Dr. Schwartz agreed to make the change permanent. Liquor Commission Member Dr. Timm Schwartz made a motion to permanently change the ordinance and recommend to the Liquor Commissioner to allow cocktails and single servings of wine “to go” as it mirrors the State. Ms. Swise clarified the motion confirming that it would only be to Class A license holders. The motion was seconded by Liquor Commission Member Judy Heisel.

Alcoholic Liquor Code Changes Re: Liquor Deliveries

Ms. Swise stated that nothing needed to be addressed on deliveries.

Fire Code Requirements Re: Hood Cleaning, Ansul System & Class K Fire Extinguishers

Fire Captain Jamie Evans informed the Commission that he does the annual fire inspections and pre-inspections for liquor license holders. It was explained that the fire department issues notices to establishments of code violations. Captain Evans explained that some establishments offer resistance because they do not want to clean their hood or have the proper ansul system which is cause for a potential fire. Ms. Swise stated that the code allowed for the Liquor Commissioner to pull a license for any violation of the City code and they could be brought before the Commission for a hearing as to whether their license would be revoked. Dr. Timm Schwartz suggested adopting a statement stating that anyone in violation of the fire prevention code is in violation of the City Code and was subject to having their license suspended. Fire Chief Reeise explained that the establishments they were referring to are ones that intentionally refuse to follow code. Ms. Swise said she would put together a letter giving warning that if they were in violation of any portion of the City Code they were subject to suspension. A motion was made by Dr. Timm Schwartz seconded by Judy Heisel to draft a letter warning businesses that any violation of the City Code was subject to suspension. On roll call vote all present voted Aye. Motion carried. Ms. Swise stated that she would prepare a draft letter for the Liquor Commissioner to sign.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Liquor Commission Members discussed allowing alcohol to be sold in fuel stations. Dr. Schwartz felt it was not the Commissions place to protect specific businesses and it made sense to allow the sale in gas stations. Commission Members also discussed not capping liquor or gaming licenses.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Commission Member Dr. Timm Schwartz and seconded by Commission Member Judy Heisel. On roll call vote all present voted Aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole L. Stewart
Deputy City Clerk