



City of Pekin

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LIQUOR COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL
111 S. CAPITOL ST
ON THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025 AT 4:00 PM
MAYOR MARY J. BURRESS PRESIDING**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Liquor Commission Secretary Nicole Stewart.

Call to Order

Liquor Commissioner Secretary Nicole Stewart, confirmed all Commission Members were physically present except for Liquor Commissioner Mary Burress, Commission Members Judy Heisel and Rob Jones. Liquor Commission Counsel opened the meeting at 4:07 PM.

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Seth Ranney	Liquor Commission	Commission Member	Present	4:00 PM
Trent Reeise	City of Pekin	Commission Member	Present	4:00 PM
Timm Schwartz	City of Pekin	Commission Member	Present	4:00 PM
Judy Heisel	City of Pekin	Commission Member	Absent	-:--
Rob Jones	City of Pekin	Deputy Liquor Commissioner	Absent	-:--
Mary Burress	City of Pekin	Liquor Commissioner	Absent	-:--

Approve Agenda

RESULT:	3-0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Commission Member Schwartz
SECONDER:	Commission Member Reeise
AYES:	Commission Member Ranney, Commission Member Reeise, and Commission Member Schwartz
ABSENT:	Liquor Commissioner Mary Burress, Commission Member Heisel, and Deputy Liquor Commissioner Jones

Approval of Minutes

4.1. Minutes from the April 24, 2025 Meeting

RESULT:	3-0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Commission Member Schwartz
SECONDER:	Commission Member Reeise
AYES:	Commission Member Ranney, Commission Member Reeise, Commission Member Schwartz
ABSENT:	Liquor Commissioner Mary Burress, Commission Member Heisel, and Deputy Liquor Commissioner Jones

Public Input

No public input was received.

Old Business

6.1. Suspension/Revocation Decision and Default Order: AGR Group, LLC dba The Clubs at Sunset Hills - Violation of 2% Food and Beverage Tax

RESULT:	3-0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Commission Member Reeise
SECONDER:	Commission Member Schwartz
AYES:	Commission Member Ranney, Commission Member Reeise, Commission Member Schwartz
ABSENT:	Liquor Commissioner Mary Burress, Commission Member Heisel, and Deputy Liquor Commissioner Jones

During discussion of the Suspension/Revocation Decision and Default Order regarding AGR Group, LLC dba The Clubs at Sunset Hills for violation of the 2% Food and Beverage Tax, Liquor Commission attorney Jim Vasselli requested the Board consider an overall compromise and settlement. He proposed vacating the default judgment of \$250 in favor of a revised total amount of \$750, which includes \$1,000 in outstanding tax, \$250 in attorney fees, and a 50% waiver of the late payment penalty. He noted this adjustment was appropriate due to what appeared to be a clerical error, and stated that the respondent has taken steps to remedy the situation. He recommended the matter be deemed compliant within 30 days. Andrea Dixon, owner, expressed agreement with the proposed resolution.

New Business

7.1. Liquor License Renewal Application: LLG427, LLC dba Whiskey Taco - Waiver of Lease Requirement and Late Penalty Fee

RESULT:	3-0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Commission Member Reeise
SECONDER:	Commission Member Schwartz
AYES:	Commission Member Ranney, Commission Member Reeise,

ABSENT:	Commission Member Schwartz Liquor Commissioner Mary Burress, Commission Member Heisel, and Deputy Liquor Commissioner Jones
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During discussion of the Liquor License Renewal Application for LLG427, LLC dba Whiskey Taco, Lynzie Gruden, owner and husband Luke Gruden introduced themselves and provided background on the matter. They explained that the LLC had exercised a call option on their lease and informed the landlord of their intent to purchase the property as of July 1st. Luke maintained that the application was not late. Mr. Jim suggested extending the matter to allow time for financing, noting that if the applicant does not return by June 26th with necessary documentation, they would be subject to a fine. It was agreed to continue the matter until June 26th and to forward all documentation to the Clerk.

Mr. Schwartz noted it is almost unusual for a lease to coincide exactly with the dates of a liquor license. Mr. Vasselli responded that while it may be inconvenient, it is ultimately the responsibility of the business to ensure alignment. The Chief added that many landlords prefer leases to run on a calendar year for tax purposes, acknowledging the point as a good suggestion and noting that aligning these dates may add complexity but could offer value. The Chief also expressed appreciation to the applicants for their time and effort in appearing before the Board.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Commission

Adjourn

Motion was made by Commission Member Reeise seconded by Commission Member Schwartz to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 PM. Motion carried by voice vote.