



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, JULY 25, 2024 AT 4:00 PM
MAYOR MARY J. BURRESS PRESIDING**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Liquor Commissioner Mary Burress.

Call to Order

Liquor Commissioner Mary Burress, confirmed all Commission Members were physically present except Liquor Commission Member Fire Chief Trent Reeise. Deputy Fire Chief Tony Rendleman filled in as designee. Liquor Commissioner Mary Burress opened the meeting at 4:05 PM.

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Seth Ranney	Liquor Commission	Commission Member	Present	4:00 PM
Tony Rendleman	City of Pekin	Commission Member Designee	Present	4:00 PM
Timm Schwartz	City of Pekin	Commission Member	Present	4:00 PM
Judy Heisel	City of Pekin	Commission Member	Present	4:00 PM
Adam Smith	City of Pekin	Deputy Liquor Commissioner	Present	4:00 PM
Mary Burress	City of Pekin	Liquor Commissioner	Present	4:00 PM

Approve Agenda

RESULT: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Commission Member Schwartz
SECONDER: Commission Member Ranney
AYES: Commission Member Ranney, Commission Member Designee Rendleman, Commission Member Schwartz, Commission Member Heisel, and Deputy Liquor Commissioner Smith

Approval of Minutes

4.1. Minutes from the June 27, 2024 Meeting

RESULT:	5-0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Commission Member Ranney
SECONDER:	Commission Member Heisel
AYES:	Commission Member Ranney, Commission Member Designee Rendleman, Commission Member Schwartz, Commission Member Heisel, and Deputy Liquor Commissioner Smith

Public Input

Mr. Steve Kerber presented his request for a liquor license for Discount Tobacco, located at 1005 Derby Street. Mr. Kerber explained that he also owns the store next door at 1013 Derby Street and has purchased the lease from a Coffee Bar. He plans to consolidate the two businesses. All required inspections have been submitted and approved.

New Business

6.1. Liquor Application: Duffy & Associates, Inc. DBA Discount Tobacco, 1005 Derby Street

RESULT:	5-0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Commission Member Schwartz
SECONDER:	Commission Member Designee Rendleman
AYES:	Commission Member Ranney, Commission Member Designee Rendleman, Commission Member Schwartz, Commission Member Heisel, and Deputy Liquor Commissioner Smith

City Attorney Kate Swise reviewed the application and stated everything appeared to be in order.

6.2. Discussion: Regulations on Outdoor Sales Areas and Sidewalk Use Permits

Josh Wray, Director of Economic Development, discussed proposed changes to city regulations on outdoor sales areas and sidewalk use permits. He mentioned that at the last council meeting, the council showed interest in expanding outdoor seating, but one of the key concerns was the requirement for a barrier, such as a rope, to separate areas serving liquor. Mr. Wray noted that while the barrier requirement creates extra space for outdoor seating, it does not necessarily prevent liquor from being passed across and may be unnecessary.

Liquor Commission Member Dr. Timm Schwartz reminded the members of the importance of maintaining an adequate walkway that doesn't obstruct the

sidewalk, and City Attorney Kate Swise clarified that a 48-inch-wide path must be preserved for pedestrian use. Mr. Wray noted that if businesses cannot maintain this width, they should not be permitted to expand. Ms. Swise added that the pedestrian route does not need to be in a specific location but must meet width requirements.

Mr. Wray also raised the idea of allowing outdoor seating in parking spaces and asked whether liquor service should be permitted in those areas. Dr. Timm Schwartz and Police Chief Ranney expressed concerns about safety, particularly with tables and chairs in the street. Deputy Fire Chief Rendleman noted that while he had no issue with liquor service, safety concerns must be addressed.

The discussion also touched on whether the city should relax regulations in the downtown area versus the rest of the City. Liquor Commission Member Chief Ranney expressed concerns about how outdoor seating would look from a safety standpoint, particularly with cars parked next to seating areas, and suggested that businesses might need to purchase barricades.

Liquor Commissioner Burress mentioned the availability of additional parking next to the Tazewell building, while Mr. Wray suggested that businesses should only be allowed to use parking spaces for seating directly in front of their establishments.

Mr. Wray clarified that he was seeking feedback from the Commission regarding two key issues: allowing the sale of liquor in parking spaces and removing the barrier requirement on sidewalks.

Dr. Timm Schwartz expressed his support for these changes, provided that the fire and police departments address their safety concerns. Police Chief Ranney stated that alcohol was not a significant concern, as the City doesn't have many bars. However, he raised questions about how many parking spaces would be designated for outdoor seating and whether parking adjacent to these areas would be permitted. Police Chief Ranney also asked if the City would require businesses to purchase specific types of barricades.

Mr. Wray added that those barricades could be made of metal or a wood structure that outlined the edge of the spaced lines.

The discussion ended with City Attorney Kate Swise raising the idea of creating a special permit or license class for businesses in the Central Business District, similar to the setup in Peoria Heights, and the potential for a free permit system. Ms. Swise stated she would look at the City Code regarding the Sidewalk Use Permit whether to remove the barrier requirement from the sidewalk use permit entirely.

Chief Ranney voiced concerns about safety, suggesting that if the city allows this, it should ensure proper barriers are in place or else let businesses take on the risk.

Mr. Wray concluded by mentioning possible infrastructure changes, such as bumping out the concrete.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Commission

Adjourn

RESULT:	5-0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Commission Member Designee Rendleman
SECONDER:	Commission Member Chief Ranney
AYES:	Commission Member Ranney, Commission Member Designee Rendleman, Commission Member Schwartz, Commission Member Heisel, and Deputy Liquor Commissioner Smith

There being no further business to come to the Liquor Commission, a motion was made by Commission Member Designee Rendleman, seconded by Police Chief Ranney, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried viva voice vote. Liquor Commissioner Mary Burress adjourned the meeting at 4:25 PM.