

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF PEORIA
LIQUOR COMMISSION
March 1, 2010

A meeting of the City of Peoria Liquor Commission was held in Room 404, City Hall, Peoria, Illinois, on March 1, 2010, Chairman Frank McCabe presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman Frank McCabe; Commissioners Ted Arndt; Don Jackson; Virginia White - 4

Absent: Drew Cassidy - 1.

Others present: Corporation Counsel Randy Ray; Liquor Investigator Scott Jordan; Fire Capt. Dan McGann; Building Inspector Jim Stevens; Kristin Cannaday-Stash, Secretary, and concerned citizens and media.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McCabe called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the Minutes of the February 1, 2010 Liquor Commission Meeting; seconded by Commissioner Arndt.

Approved by roll call vote:

Yeas: Arndt, Jackson, McCabe; White – 4;

Nays: 0

III. LIQUOR SITE APPLICATIONS

10-4 **JK Boas, Inc.**
 d/b/a JK Boas
 1900 W. Garden
 Requesting: Subclass 2 (live entertainment)
 Has: Class A (tavern)

Joe and Cheryl Knox, owners, presented an application for a Subclass 2 (live entertainment) to be added to his Class A (tavern) Liquor License at 1900 W. Garden.

Mr. Knox indicated there would be only karaoke or a DJ, no bands. He said that currently they planned to have karaoke only on Sunday from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. He also indicated that his brother is a DJ and would only be there twice a month, usually on a slow night such as Tuesday, and would be done by around 8:00 p.m.

Liquor Investigator Jordan stated he received one phone call in opposition. He indicated that he had explained to the caller that there was a VFW right next door and LA Connection down the

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road and both have live entertainment licenses, so it would not be fair to deny this application. He added that new ownership would be good for this location.

Mr. Knox stated he would be there every night, all night long.

Chairman McCabe agreed that a level playing field was only fair.

Hearing no more questions or discussion, Chairman McCabe called for the vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arndt to approve their request for karaoke and a DJ at 1900 W. Garden; seconded by Commissioner Jackson.

Yeas: Arndt, Jackson; McCabe; White – 4;

Nays: 0.

Deputy Liquor Commissioner Turner stated he was aware of the call in opposition, but felt this new owner would be much more responsible than the previous owner and he did not feel this would be a detriment to the neighborhood.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Annual Liquor Meeting: Deputy Liquor Commissioner Turner stated that he had heard nothing but positive comments about the change in the Annual Liquor Meeting from the liquor licensees. He stated the licensees had commented that the new format was much better for them. He also indicated that this meeting change had saved the City money because out of the 209 liquor licenses, there were only 57 licenses had to be mailed that day.

Peoria Journal Star Article: Liquor Investigator Jordan stated that he was hoping John Sharp would be at the meeting because of an article that appeared in the paper on February 13. He felt the article was really unfair and slanted. He explained that it was entitled something like “bar owners in trouble” and talked about the food requirements for licensees. He said that Mr. Sharp had interviewed only one bar owner and no one else. He stated that no Police Officers went through any receipts, as was reported, and that their involvement was only the serving of the Notice of Hearings. He added that they never demanded to see anyone’s books when they served those notices and there was not a lot of staff time taken to do this.

Deputy Liquor Commissioner Turner stated that it all started with a bar owner on the Riverfront who thinks it is unfair to have to show that he is meeting the requirements of the B license he applied for. He said that the owner could always change licenses if he could not meet the requirements.

Liquor Investigator Jordan stated that the Riverfront owner was consistently missing the requirements of the B license (50% food) by 4 or 5%. He added that some of the licensees who had B licenses missed the percentage requirement by 20 to 25% and one had 0% of food reported. He indicated that the restaurant license would be one that should be enforced because of the parameters of the license, such as allowing in underage patrons, and that the food percentage used were the numbers that the establishments themselves present to the City.

Commissioner Jackson stated he supported the comments made by Liquor Investigator Jordan and indicated he felt the article was totally unfair and one-sided.

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Commissioner Arndt and Chairman McCabe stated that the Commission had offered to help Staff review the reported figures for the B licensees to ensure they were meeting the requirements of the restaurant licenses if the Staff did not have the time.

Deputy Liquor Commissioner Turner stated that he had held the hearings and told the establishments that he realized how the economy was so he did not levy any fines, but asked they come into compliance with their license parameters or change their Class license.

Corporation Counsel Ray stated there were only five establishments served with these notices. He said that one of the establishments was changing their classification and the others were filing amended returns.

V. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business presented.

VI. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Liquor Commission is Monday, April 5, 2010.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Arndt moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner White.

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Liquor Commission Meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Kristin Cannaday-Stash, Secretary