

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION
BOARD ROOM - 2 COMMUNITY BOULEVARD
COOK and LAKE COUNTIES, WHEELING, IL
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Horcher called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairperson Horcher

3. Roll Call Led by Village Clerk Kathryn M. Brady

Present: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

4. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes for the Special Meeting of January 15, 2024

Chairperson Horcher asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes as presented.

Motion by Mary Papantos, second by Jim Ruffatto.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito

Abstain: Dave Vogel

Commissioner Vogel abstained as he was not present at the meeting held on January 15, 2024.

Manager Sfondilis introduced the new Fire Chief Scott Salela and welcomed him to the Village. Chief Salela stated that he's looking forward to working with everyone.

5. Citizen Concerns and Comments - None

6. New Business

A. Hearing in the Matter of El Alamo Mexican Grill LLC d/b/a Mexcal (56-58 North Wolf Road) Docket No 24-01

Village Attorney James Ferolo read the hearing title into the record. El Alamo Mexican Grill representative Victor Rannigel was present and sworn in by the court reporter. Attorney Ferolo presented the evidence and ensured Mr. Rannigel understood the Notice of Hearing and Petition related to the liquor violation. Mr. Rannigel pleaded liable and then stated that the restaurant was currently changing ownership. Attorney Ferolo asked if they would agree to forfeit the license in lieu of a fine. Mr. Rannigel answered that they would. Attorney Ferolo asked if a forfeiture date of March 15, 2024, would work. Mr. Rannigel agreed.

B. Hearing in the Matter of The Lucky Strike Corporation d/b/a District Brew Yards (700 North Milwaukee Avenue) Docket No 24-02

Village Attorney James Ferolo read the hearing title into the record. Representative Steve Soble was present and sworn in by the court reporter. Attorney Ferolo presented the evidence ensuring that Mr. Soble understood the Notice of Hearing and Petition related to the liquor violation and confirmed that their servers are BASSET trained. Mr. Soble pleaded liable and answered a question from the Commission.

C. Hearing in the Matter of RMPT Beverages LLC d/b/a SWEJ Wine & Liquor (208 McHenry Road) Docket No 24-03

Village Attorney James Ferolo read the hearing title into the record. Representative Tej Patel was present and sworn in by the court reporter. Attorney Ferolo presented the evidence ensuring that Mr. Patel understood the Notice of Hearing and Petition related to the liquor violation. Mr. Patel pleaded liable and answered a question from the Commission. Attorney Ferolo stated that they need to provide a written liquor policy and confirmed that their servers are BASSET trained.

[Executive Session]

Chairperson Horcher asked for a Motion to recess to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing consideration of evidence or testimony presented in an open hearing.

Motion by Jim Ruffatto, second by Dave Vogel.

Yes: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

Final Resolution: Motion Approved, the meeting recessed at 6:44 PM.

[Reconvene from Executive Session]

Chairperson Horcher asked for a Motion to reconvene the open session.

Motion by Mary Krueger, second by Mary Papantos, that the open meeting reconvene.

Motion carried by roll call vote; the open meeting reconvened at 6:55 PM.

Liquor Commission Findings

In the Matter of El Alamo Mexican Grill LLC d/b/a Mexcal (56–58 North Wolf Road) Docket No 24-01

Attorney Ferolo asked for a motion, in lieu of a fine, to declare El Alamo Mexican Grill LLC liquor license forfeited as of March 15, 2024, and a required payment of \$133.33¢ for a portion of the administrative cost.

Motion by Mary Papantos, second by Dave Vogel.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

In the Matter of The Lucky Strike Corporation d/b/a District Brew Yards (700 North Milwaukee Avenue) Docket No 24-02

Attorney Ferolo asked for a motion to institute a \$500 fine and a portion of the administrative cost of \$133.33¢.

Motion by Jim Ruffatto, second by Mary Krueger.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

In the Matter of RMPT Beverages LLC d/b/a SWEJ Wine & Liquor (208 McHenry Road) Docket No 24-03

Attorney Ferolo asked for a motion to institute a \$500 fine, a portion of the administrative cost of \$133.33¢, proof of BASSET training for all employees, and a written policy on the sales and service of liquor.

Motion by Mary Papantos, second by Mary Krueger.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

Mr. Ferolo stated that a written order would be sent to the licensees within the next few days.

D. Consideration of a Request for a Class B-V Liquor License from La Doñita Oaxaqueña 2 LLC, a Proposed Restaurant with Video Gaming at 56–58 North Wolf Road

Clerk Brady read the title into the record. Manager Sfondilis introduced the request and read the following conditions for approval:

1) payment of all applicable fees, 2) submittal of BASSET certificates for all applicable employees, and 3) the forfeiture of the existing liquor license for the subject premises.

The petitioner's representative was present and answered questions from the Commission. Attorney Ferolo suggested that the liquor license for El Alamo be turned in as soon as they cease operations or before March 15, 2024.

Motion by Dave Vogel, second by Ray Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

7. Adjournment

Chairperson Horcher asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Dave Vogel, second by Mary Krueger.

Final Resolution: Motion carried by voice vote, all ayes, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Kathryn M. Brady, Village Clerk

Approved this 15th day of April 2024, by the Chairperson and Commissioners