

LIQUOR LICENSING & REVIEW COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN
VILLAGE HALL AUDITORIUM
9446 RAYMOND AVENUE OAK LAWN IL 60453
Meeting Minutes #2021-06 (09-28-21)

I. ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chairperson: Mayor Terry Vorderer

Members: Cheryl Daly Jack Hopkins
 Larry Daly (*ABS*) Chuck Miller
 Tom Dematteo Terry O'Reilly
 Jan Goetz

Staff: Deanne Adasiak, Recording Secretary
 Joselyn Mathews, Village Attorney

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Vorderer.

III. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Member Daly to approve the prior Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2021 #2021-5 and was seconded by Member Goetz.

Roll call: O'Reilly, yes; Miller, abstain; Hopkins, yes; Goetz, yes; Dematteo, yes; Daly, C., yes.

Motion to approve passes: 5-0-1.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Liquor License Request for Tri-Ump-Ed, Inc. DBA Brown's Chicken & Pasta at 4740 West 111th Street (Class FV):

Mr. Tim Kennefick, President, Brown's Chicken & Pasta, 4740 W. 111th Street, Oak Lawn, IL.

The petitioner stated that Brown's Chicken & Pasta has been a part of the Oak Lawn community for over 50 years. He explained that the franchise and property are owned by Ed Daly. The petitioner explained why they want to expand the business by adding a gaming room. He stated that they will maintain the same number of seats. The petitioner stated that they do not want to turn the business into a gaming parlor, but rather to improve it. He explained that the idea is for customers to come in and watch a game or play video gaming.

Member Miller asked about the number of seats; the petitioner replied, "thirty (30) seats." The petitioner expressed that one of their other concerns is that property taxes have more than doubled. Member Miller asked the petitioner when the last time they improved the business. According to the petitioner, the last improvements were made to the front of the building over the last 35 years. He said video game revenue would allow them to progress further.

Member O'Reilly inquired about the classification of liquor. The petitioner responded that they are only looking for a license to sell beer and wine. He stated that they do not want it to turn into a drinking establishment. Member O'Reilly asked if there would be any liquor carryout.

No, said the petitioner. Member O'Reilly reminded the petitioner that the employees selling liquor must of age.

Member Daly asked about the interior redesign. The petitioner responded that they plan to remodel a portion of the kitchen and add a gaming room.

Mayor Vorderer informed the petitioner that Oak Lawn has over 250 gaming terminals. He stated that Village officials want to limit video gaming to full-service restaurants. He inquired about the petitioner's menu board and whether they would have paper menus and waitresses. The petitioner responded by saying that a lot has changed since the pandemic. He mentioned using a QR code to access the menu, and then having staff bring out the order. He emphasized that the days of waitresses are over. Mayor Vorderer mentioned a new business that has a full wait staff, and said they literally opened this week.

Mayor Vorderer told the petitioner that they had avoided the slippery slope of allowing video gaming in fast food restaurants. Mayor Vorderer stated that while he recognizes Mr. Daly has been a businessman for many years and that the original idea is to support brick and mortar stores, he does not believe he has enough information to move this forward. He expressed his concern about the slippery slope and other fast food restaurants requesting video gaming.

Member Daly asked about the square footage. The petitioner replied that he is unsure and that it is a large building. The renderings, according to Mayor Vorderer, do not illustrate the expansion. The petitioner stated that he could provide more information. He stated that they want to keep the drive-thru as efficient as possible.

Member Hopkins stated that granting this liquor license would be a slippery slope. He stated that McDonald's will be the next in line. He stated that as a Village and/or Board, we must draw a line on the negative impact of approving this gaming license.

The petitioner reminded the Board that video gaming benefits small businesses and independent owners. He stated that these are the people who are struggling to pay their taxes and make payroll.

Mayor Vorderer proposed deferring this request until the next meeting in order to find common ground and reach a resolution. Member Vorderer stated that our community spends approximately \$1.2 billion in video gaming. He stated that there is a fine line to walk and that he is concerned about the consequences for our Village. Mayor Vorderer stated that it is his responsibility to ensure that we maintain control and establish a standard.

A motion was made by Member O'Reilly to table the Liquor License Request for Tri-Ump-Ed, Inc., DBA Brown's Chicken & Pasta at 4740 West 111th Street. The motion was seconded by Member Hopkins.

Roll call: O'Reilly, yes; Miller, yes; Hopkins, yes; Goetz, yes; Dematteo, yes; Daly, yes.

The motion to table passed: 6-0.

- b. Liquor and Tobacco License(s) Request for Global Liquor LLC at 5711-13 West 95th Street (Class E)

The petitioner was not present.

A motion to table the Liquor & Tobacco License Request for Global Liquor LLC at 5711-13 West 95th Street was made by Member Hopkins and seconded by Member Daly.

Roll call: Daly, yes; Dematteo, yes; Goetz, yes; Hopkins, yes; Miller, yes; O'Reilly, yes.

Motion to table passes: 6-0.

- c. Tobacco Retailer Application Request for Southwest Convenience DBA Southwest Food Mart at 9637 Southwest Highway.

Mr. Mohammed Aoun, 8505 S. Menard Avenue, Burbank, IL.

Mr. Shereen Aoun, 8505 S. Menard Avenue, Burbank, IL.

The petitioner apologized for missing the last meeting.

The petitioner stated his intention to open a convenience store with a 70% grocery and 30% vape retail inventory. He stated that they will have four employees, two for the morning shift and two for the afternoon shift. He stated that they would close at 10:00 p.m.

The petitioner mentioned their other location in Burbank at 5716 West 87th Street. He stated that the store has been open for eight years and encouraged the Board Members to visit it. He mentioned that he has a location in Villa Park as well.

Mayor Vorderer mentioned the Village's significant number of tobacco stores. He stated that the petitioner's initial request for a tobacco store. He also mentioned the proximity of similar-type stores within a half-mile radius. Mayor Vorderer expressed concern about the tobacco side of the business as well as the paraphernalia that is merged in inventory as part of a grocery/convenience store.

The petitioner stated that the proposed business will be more of a grocery store, with a 60% inventory of milk, eggs, and so on.

Mayor Vorderer inquired about the square footage. The petitioner responded 600-800 square feet. Member O'Reilly asked about the grocery items, specifically whether they will include milk, eggs, packaged items, canned goods, packaged lunchmeat, and so on. Yes, said the petitioner. The petitioner provided the names of their distributors.

Member Daly asked the petitioner if he has a rendering/layout of the proposed store. The petitioner said that he has a rendering on his phone.

Member Hopkins questioned the petitioners on how they plan to keep children from purchasing tobacco. The petitioner stated that they will comply with the 21-year-old requirement.

A motion was made by Member Dematteo to approve the recommendation for a Tobacco Retailer Application for Southwest Convenience DBA Southwest Food Mart at 9637 Southwest Highway. The motion was seconded by Member O'Reilly.

Roll call: Daly, yes; Dematteo, yes; Goetz, yes; Hopkins, no; Miller, yes; O'Reilly, yes.

Motion passes: 5-1.

- d. Mayor's Proposal

None.

V. REPORTS:

a. Current Gaming Revenue

Mayor Vorderer mentioned that he recently spoke at the Illinois Municipal League's Annual Conference along with Village Attorneys about revenue models and initiatives relative to the Push Tax. He expressed that the Village of Oak Lawn is taking the lead on this tax.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Miller and seconded by Goetz.

Voice Vote: All in favor, aye.

Motion to adjourn passes.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.