

LIQUOR LICENSING & REVIEW COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN
VILLAGE HALL AUDITORIUM
9446 RAYMOND AVENUE OAK LAWN IL 60453
Meeting Minutes #2021-01 (01-27-21)

I. ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 5:03 p.m.

Chairperson: Mayor Sandra Bury

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

Staff: Deanne Adasiak, Recording Secretary

Also present: Trustee Terry Vorderer, 4th District

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Bury.

III. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Member O'Reilly to approve the prior Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2020 #2020-2 and was seconded by Member Miller.

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

Motion to approve passes: 4-0-0.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Liquor License Request for Rosati's Pizza (Class F and Class N)

The petitioner was not present. The petitioner was contacted by telephone to answer questions and address concerns from the Board.

Mr. Fareed Khowaja, 1804 Potter Road, Glenview, Illinois.

The petitioner said he is opening Rosati's a well-known Chicago pizza in the Chicagoland area. Mayor Bury asked the petitioner if he has any other locations. The petitioner replied that this will be his first franchise. Mayor Bury asked if Rosati's is a dine-in restaurant with available beer and wine. The petitioner responded yes. He said that most of his business will be delivery and carry-out. Mayor Bury mentioned the former business Blaze Pizza and asked the petitioner if he will be doing anything different than a fast food restaurant. The petitioner replied that his restaurant will have the "fast food feel". Mayor Bury asked about the menu. The petitioner said he will have wings, pizza, and other food items. Mayor Bury asked the petitioner if this is the first time that he has applied for a liquor license. The petitioner responded yes.

Mayor Bury asked the petitioner if he is interested in gaming. The petitioner responded that he is interested in gaming and that he made a mistake and the classification is incorrect on his application. Mayor Bury discussed her concern with reviewing the application without the presence of the petitioner and also having an incorrect application. She added that she bypassed having our Village Attorney present at this meeting because she thought this was a straight forward application without gaming.

Mayor Bury asked the petitioner when he was planning to open. The petitioner responded at the end of February. Mayor Bury asked the petitioner to describe the location of the gaming machines. The petitioner indicated that he will be removing tables to add gaming. Mayor Bury asked where the terminals will be placed. The petitioner said he will put 5 machines at the front. He said a wall will be added so the terminals will be hidden and that he will have one person hired to take care of machines and check IDs. Mayor Bury asked how many tables will be on site. The petitioner responded that he is removing 4 tables and there will be six remaining tables with a total of 24 seats. Mayor Bury expressed that it sounds as if the petitioner is more interested in gaming than having a sit-down restaurant. The petitioner replied that pizza will be pick-up and delivery. Mayor Bury asked if liquor will be an option for delivery. The petitioner responded no. Mayor Bury asked the petitioner if he would be open to operating without gaming. The petitioner responded that gaming would help him financially. Mayor Bury asked the total number of employees. The petitioner responded that there will be a total of 25 employees throughout different shifts.

Mayor Bury expressed to the petitioner that the Board of Trustees are concerned about the proliferation of video gaming. She expressed that she was excited to see an application without the gaming component. She asked the petitioner who his gaming operator will be. The petitioner responded Gold Rush Gaming.

Member O'Reilly asked the hours of operation. The petitioner asked the gaming hours or the restaurant hours. Mayor Bury explained to the petitioner that gaming hours must coincide with the open restaurant hours. The petitioner responded Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. and Friday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Member Daly asked how big the area is that will be blocked off for gaming. The petitioner replied that he does not know the exact dimensions. Member Daly asked if the gaming will be at the front windows visible from the street. The petitioner said he can add something to the windows to hide the gaming machines.

Mayor Bury expressed that she does not feel comfortable advancing this application to the Village Board. She commented that there is insufficient information about the gaming build out, an incorrect application, etc. Mayor Bury also expressed concern of patrons under 21 going into that location with the gaming in front; she said a lot of the high school students used to gather at Blaze Pizza and based on the petitioner's comments it seems half of the floor space will be used for gaming. Member DeMatteo expressed concerns that the business is 80% delivery. Trustee Vorderer said that this issue has come before the Board before; he said having the gaming at the front without being a full restaurant is concerning. He said he would like to see a floor plan.

Mayor Bury asked to postpone this item and requested that the petitioner provide a site plan showing location of the gaming machines.

b. Mayor's Proposals

None.

V. Reports

a. Current Gaming Revenue

VI. Public Comments

None.

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Miller and seconded by Member O'Reilly.

Voice Vote: All in favor, aye. All opposed, none.

Motion to adjourn passes.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.