

LIQUOR LICENSING & REVIEW COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN
VILLAGE HALL AUDITORIUM
9446 RAYMOND AVENUE OAK LAWN IL 60453
Meeting Minutes #2021-05 (07-27-21)

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

Chairperson: Mayor Terry Vorderer

Members: Cheryl Daly Jack Hopkins
Larry Daly Chuck Miller (*ABS*)
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 L. Daly to approve the prior Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2021 #2021-4 and was seconded by Member O'Reilly.

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

Motion to approve passes: 6-0-0.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Liquor License Request for Oak Lawn Restaurant (new Ownership) Class FV:

Ms. Helena Milman, Attorney for Petitioner Lynh Carroll, 55 W. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL.

The petitioner stated that Oak Lawn Restaurant would operate as is with no changes to the menu or staff. She indicated that the state and local liquor licenses will be transferred to new owners upon approval of the liquor license request.

Member L. Daly asked if the current restaurant holds a liquor and gaming license. Mayor Vorderer responded yes.

The petitioner expressed the business operator's plans to maintain a good quality restaurant.

A motion was made by Member L. Daly to recommend for Village Board approval the Liquor License Request for Oak Lawn Restaurant (new Ownership) – Class FV. The motion was seconded by Member Goetz.

Roll call: C. Daly, yes; L. Daly, yes; T. Dematteo, yes; J. Goetz, yes; J. Hopkins, yes; T. O'Reilly, yes.

Motion passes: 6-0-0.

b. Liquor License Request for GGs Spot Bar & Grill at 9600 S. Pulaski (Class I and Class N):

Mrs. Geneva Griffith, Business Owner, 9143 Central Avenue, Oak Lawn, Illinois

The petitioner stated that the location was previously a pizza parlor. She explained why she wanted to keep the same layout. She stated that she will keep a regular bar and then serve food from where the pizza area was. Chicken, fish, sandwiches, salads, fries, and other items are among the petitioner's proposed menu items. Mayor Vorderer asked if the kitchen is fully equipped. The petitioner responded yes. The petitioner indicated that she will stick to a light menu. Mayor Vorderer inquired about the petitioner's plans for a full-service restaurant. The petitioner replied no, and that she would prefer to maintain the restaurant as a relaxing spot.

The liquor license conditions were clarified by Mayor Vorderer. With the requested classification, he stated that no gaming is permissible. The petitioner stated that she is not interested in video gaming.

Member O'Reilly asked about the number of employees and whether or not the bar will employ bartenders and servers. The petitioner responded yes and said there will be approximately five (5) employees every shift.

Member DeMatteo asked about the petitioner's experience in the restaurant industry. The petitioner replied that she has no experience in the restaurant industry. She added that her husband used to own a cigar lounge that served alcohol, and that it had always been her ambition to open a restaurant.

Member L. Daly asked the square footage of the restaurant. The petitioner responded 1,800 square feet.

Mayor Vorderer asked how many tables on the interior. The petitioner replied that there will be approximately seven (7) tables. Member C. Daly asked to see a rendering of the proposed layout.

Member Hopkins asked staff if there are any other locations in the Village of Oak Lawn in which there are two (2) liquor licenses issued within the same strip mall. Deanne replied yes.

Member C. Daly asked about the dimensions of the outdoor patio. The petitioner responded 15-20 square feet.

Mayor Vorderer asked the petitioner how long she had had this idea/concept for her restaurant. The petitioner replied approximately 10-15 years. She explained that she had always told herself that when she retired, she would open a restaurant. She mentioned that she retired at the age of 40.

Member Hopkins asked the petitioner whether she had any plans to remodel. The petitioner responded that she will not be doing anything major, but will paint and spruce up the place.

Member Hopkins asked if the business will allow for one-hundred (100) guests. The petitioner said as far as tables it will allow for forty-one (41) seated guests. Member Hopkins mentioned the additional thirteen (13) seats at the bar.

Member L. Daly asked the proposed hours of operation. The petitioner responded Sunday through Wednesday 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m.; and Thursday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.

Mayor Vorderer expressed his appreciation for the petitioner's proposed business in our community. He mentioned his concern about the number of gaming establishments and asked the petitioner if she would consider a condition on the approval not to apply for gaming for at least one year. The petitioner reiterated that she is not interested in gaming and she is fine with that condition.

A motion was made by Member O'Reilly to recommend Village Board approval for GG's Spot Bar & Grill at 9600 Pulaski (Class I and Class N) with an added condition that the petitioner wait one year from commencement of opening business if considering gaming. The motion was seconded by Member C. Daly.

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

Motion passes: 6-0-0.

c. Tobacco Retailer Application Review – Smokeless R Us at 9637 Southwest Highway:

The petitioner was not present.

Mayor Vorderer stated that this is the Commission's first request for a Tobacco License. He expressed that we have at least twelve (12) existing tobacco stores. Mayor Vorderer said it is his opinion and the opinion of the majority of the Board to review additional requests to open a Tobacco store. He expressed surprise that the petitioner is not present.

Member L. Daly stated that he has visited several tobacco stores in the area. Outside of tobacco, he expressed concern about the other products sold in tobacco stores. He mentioned that one of the stores he has visited sells bongos and other similar items. He stated that he would be opposed to the opening of another tobacco store. Member L. Daly stated that while he is not familiar with all of the smoke shops, he is aware that on more than one occasion, one of the facilities has been repeatedly closed for whatever reason. Member L. Daly stated that he does not want to stand in the way of someone starting a business, but he believes this is similar to the influx of gaming parlors that want to open in our community. He expressed that he believes the intention is to sell other products that would not be permitted in a regular store. He stated that it raises a red flag.

Mayor Vorderer stated that there are tobacco stores within the area at 99th & Southwest Highway, 95th and Massasoit, 95th and 54th Avenue, and so on. He expressed that he feels we have enough tobacco stores and has concerns particularly since no one is present to make an argument for their store. Member O'Reilly agreed that the petitioner should be here to present his intentions. Deanne mentioned that there is a slight language barrier with the applicant. She mentioned that she is talking to two different people for this location but she is not sure that they are communicating with each other.

Mayor Vorderer asked if we could reject this application, and if the petitioner wanted to come back and reapply for a license, they could. Village Counsel stated that it could be rejected and that they could resubmit it for the next meeting with no problem. Member L. Daly inquired whether the petitioner owned any other stores. The petitioner, according to Mayor Vorderer, is not present to answer that question.

A motion to deny recommendation for Village Board approval of Tobacco Retailer at 9637 Southwest Highway – Smokeless R Us was made by Member L. Daly. The motion was seconded by Member Hopkins.

Roll call: C. Daly, yes; L. Daly, yes; T. Dematteo, yes; J. Goetz, yes; J. Hopkins, yes; T. O'Reilly, yes.

Motion to deny passes: 6-0-0.

Mayor Vorderer asked Deanne to express the concerns of the Commission to the tobacco applicant and to also let him know that we are open to hearing his argument. He said if the petitioner brings it back, we will discuss further.

d. Mayor's Proposal

None.

V. REPORTS:

a. Current Gaming Revenue

Mayor Vorderer said our revenues are streaming for June at \$88,000 down from \$93,000 from the month of May. Deanne said the number of establishments and the video terminal counts are the same but the numbers have fallen off a bit. Mayor Vorderer said it could be vacations and such.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Voice Vote: All in favor, aye.

Motion to adjourn passes.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.