

LA GRANGE LIQUOR COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING

53 South La Grange Road  
First Floor Conference Room  
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, March 9, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The special meeting of the La Grange Liquor Commission was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Liquor Commissioner Tom Livingston.

Present and constituting a quorum were Liquor Commissioner Tom Livingston, Commissioner Mark Langan and Commissioner Mark Kuchler

Absent: None

Also present: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn, Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, and Village Attorney Mark Burkland

2. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Langan and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler to approve the minutes of November 10, 2014, as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Liquor License Request – Shakti Chicago, Inc. d/b/a 7-Eleven.

Commissioner Livingston introduced the applicants and Commission members. Individuals representing the applicants included Chris Jones, Field Consultant for 7-Eleven, Ketan Patel, President; Minal Patel, Secretary; Biren Patel, Manager; and Sue Swanson, licensing consultant. Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson introduced the application from 7-Eleven and noted that although 7-11 has held a liquor license for many years, Shakti Chicago, Inc. is a new franchisee.

Ketan Patel noted his affiliation with 7-Eleven since 2001. Indicating his experience with retail liquor sales, Mr. Patel provided information on locations of the stores he owns and has franchised.

Commissioner Kuchler asked if Mr. Patel had plans to remodel the location and Mr. Patel indicated that potential remodeling is anticipated. Commissioner Kuchler noted a recent tobacco violation under the corporate ownership. Mr. Patel advised that employee training is a high priority for him and that the company also performs its own random checks.

Commissioner Kuchler asked Mr. Patel if his experience with owning liquor stores has resulted in stricter controls at 7-11. Mr. Patel said that 7-11 has strict rules and controls that he has used in his liquor stores. While he would be interested in selling hard liquor at the La Grange 7-11, each store has a different demographic and he understands that the liquor code provides for beer and wine sales only at this time.

It was moved by Commissioner Langan and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler that the Liquor Commission recommend: (a) that the Village Board of Trustees create one new Class B Liquor License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issue that license to the Shakti Chicago Corporation as the new franchise owner of 7-Eleven at 6 East 47<sup>th</sup> Street.

Commissioner Livingston expressed his appreciation of 7-Eleven's continued investment in the Village. Commissioner Livingston stated that the recommendation would be made to the Village Board at either its next regularly scheduled meeting on March 23, 2015 or April 13, 2015.

As the applicant was potentially interested in closing on March 31, the Village Attorney stated that a provisional license could be issued with the concurrence of the Commission. The Commission indicated support to issue the provisional license if necessary.

#### 4. Proposed Liquor Code Amendments

President Livingston stated that a recommended set of amendments to the Liquor Code has been provided for the Liquor Commission's consideration, with the intent of keeping pace with marketplace conditions. He introduced the owners of Vino e Birra (John and Maria Hutzler) as well as Graham Grady and Randall Stevens of Trader Joes. Both businesses have requested amendments to the liquor code.

Staff recommended that the Liquor Commission consider amendments to the Liquor Code in two phases. The first phase includes proposed amendments that would: 1) allow sales of spirits in grocery stores and pharmacies (under specific conditions); 2) allow wine boutiques to conduct off-premises events and increase the number of customers that may be served alcohol during private events on premises; and 3) make housekeeping changes to numerous administrative provisions of the Liquor Code. A second phase of the Commission's review would include proposed amendments relating to service and sales of liquor at public and private events by businesses that do not regularly serve liquor.

Commissioners agreed that the proposed restrictions for liquor sales as a percentage of the square footage of floor space was appropriate in order to control the amount of alcohol sold. Only full service grocery stores and pharmacies would be allowed to sell spirits under specific circumstances.

Commissioners also agreed that it was appropriate for a Wine Boutique to conduct off premise wine tastings which would also include sales of wine for off-premise consumption and to have the ability to host slightly larger events, four times per year. Commissioners also agreed with a

definition of pour size for the sale of wine (8 oz) and beer (12 oz) by the glass and that the total amount of alcohol that could be consumed per person, per day is 24 ounces.

Other proposed amendments to the Liquor Code consisted of mostly housekeeping matters as well as changes related to Class C-1 Food Boutiques, Class D Tasting Licenses, Glass G Caterer Licenses and Sellers and Servers Training.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Commissioners agreed that it was appropriate to recommend the Phase I amendments as proposed to the Village Board for approval. Phase II proposed amendments would be presented to the Liquor Commission for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

5. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Langan and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler that the meeting of the Liquor Commission be adjourned. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Andrianna Peterson  
Assistant Village Manager

Date Approved: x July 13, 2015