

LA GRANGE LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING

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

Monday, March 11, 2019 – 6:45 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

A special meeting of the La Grange Liquor Control Commission was called to order at 6:46 p.m. by Liquor Commissioner Tom Livingston.

Present and constituting a quorum were Liquor Commissioner Tom Livingston, Commissioner Michael Kotynek and Commissioner Mark Kuchler.

Absent: None

Also present: Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, Community Development Director Charity Jones, Police Chief Kurt Bluder and Village Attorney Mark Burkland.

2. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Kotynek to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2019 meeting. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Liquor License Request Class A-2 / Liquor License Applicant Mak's La Grange LLC d/b/a Mak's House La Grange 46 S. La Grange Road

Liquor Commissioner Livingston asked Village Manager Andrianna Peterson to introduce the application. On October 30, 2017, the Village Board approved the creation of an additional Class A-2 liquor license for Cheesie's La Grange, LLC at 46 S. La Grange Road, subject to certain conditions. Among these conditions, the license holder must reapply for a new license each year including, at the Village's discretion, a hearing and new background checks on each owner and manager.

Cheesie's liquor license expires on April 30, 2019 and the owner, Michael Siambanes, has requested a new liquor license under a new corporate structure and new name of Mak's House La Grange. The new corporate structure includes three of the four members of Cheesie's La Grange LLC.

Mike Siambanes is the managing partner of the LLC, Kevin Mulryan is a partner and Adam Staehle is a partner. Mike Siambanes is the primary liquor manager and is assisted by three additional liquor managers: Alison Staehle, Giovanni Salgado and Jessica Taylor. All liquor managers have passed background checks and received approval from the Police Chief.

Managing partner Mike Siambanes explained that they have been attempting to secure an operating agreement with Cheesie's since their opening in 2017 and have been unsuccessful. By separating from the Cheesie's brand, they will be able to rebrand. This change will also allow an expanded menu that will include flatbread, salad, mac and cheese as well as grilled cheese.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired as to the percentages sold of both food and liquor. Mr. Siambanes responded that 80% of sales are food sales. He also reported that both Mr. Staehle and Mr. Mulryan have remained silent partners.

Commissioner Livingston inquired as to the projected timeline for the change from Cheesie's to Mak's House La Grange. Mr. Siambanes responded that starting April 1, 2019 they will begin transitioning.

Commissioner Kuchler asked how the restaurant has been doing in La Grange. Mr. Siambanes responded that this rebranding will assist in keeping the business strong. By moving away from the Cheesie's franchise they will be able to expand their menu and explore new relationships outside of Cheesie's approved list of vendors.

Commissioner Kuchler inquired how parking affected employees of the business. Mr. Siambanes reported that he has not heard any complaints.

After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Kotynek and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler that the Liquor Commission recommend: (a) that the Village Board of Trustees creates one new class A-2 Liquor License; (b) that license be contingent upon the continuation of the conditions in the rider held by Cheesie's and (c) that the Liquor Commission issues that license to Mak's La Grange LLC d/b/a Mak's House La Grange located at 46 S. La Grange Road provided. Motion carried.

4. Other Business

Village Manager Andrianna Peterson announced that three new restaurants will be applying for liquor licenses in the coming year – Blackberry Market, Milkstop and Madison Local.

5. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Kotynek 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 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Andrianna Peterson
Village Manager

Date Approved: