

LA GRANGE LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING

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

Monday, October 9, 2017 – 6:30 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 6:30 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, Acting Police Chief Andy Peters, and Village Attorney Mark Burkland.

2. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Kotynek and seconded by Commissioner Livingston to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2017 meeting as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

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

Liquor Commissioner Livingston welcomed the applicant and expressed appreciation for the investment of opening a new restaurant in La Grange. The applicant's representative President, Michael Siambanes was in attendance along with attorney Phil Fornaro.

Liquor Commissioner Livingston asked Village Manager Andrianna Peterson to introduce the application. Ms. Peterson stated that the Village has received a revised application for a Class A-2 liquor license from Cheesie's La Grange LLC d/b/a Cheesie's located at 46 S. La Grange Road. Cheesie's had previously applied for a liquor license but then withdrew their application.

Michael Siambanes is a 33.3% owner, the store manager and liquor manager. Other owners include Christopher Johnson, Vice President (1% ownership, proposed to be changed), Kevin Mulryan, Secretary (33.3% ownership) and Adam Staehle, Treasurer (33.3% ownership).

All four applicants were fingerprinted by the La Grange Police Department. An affidavit has been received from Acting Police Chief Peters affirming that Michael Siambanes, Christopher Johnson, and Kevin Mulryan conform to the requirements of the Liquor Code and are recommended for consideration of the issuance of a liquor license. The applicant has advised that additional liquor managers may be presented for consideration.

Liquor Commissioner Livingston asked the applicant about the reasons for their interest in adding liquor sales. Mr. Siambanes replied that Cheesie's is about food but offering liquor to parents provides added revenue.

Commissioner Kotynek asked how a license is issued to the applicants. Attorney Burkland replied that the license is issued to the LLC which is made up of the entire ownership structure.

Commissioner Kuchler requested clarification regarding section 111.18 (A) (9) of the Liquor Code related to co-partnerships. Attorney Burkland responded that there is a difference between a co-partnership and an LLC in that there is a personal interest in a co-partnership that does not exist in an LLC. The Liquor Commissioner has the ability to apply standards for activities that the LLC is engaged in and for certain people involved in the LLC relationship if he deems it appropriate.

Cheesie's attorney Fornaro stated that the owners of Cheesie's have agreed that no liquor sales will take place after midnight on any day of the week. Mr. Siambanes stated that Cheesie's has no intention of being a bar and will not be keeping the kitchen open later than midnight.

Commissioner Kotynek asked about the number of hours that the liquor manager will spend at the restaurant. Mr. Siambanes indicated that he plans to work 40-50 hours per week. He is also planning on hiring two other liquor managers who would be responsible when he is not working. One of these three individuals will be responsible for liquor sales and service at all times. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed managers and the status of the owners.

The Commission discussed various conditions on the issuance of a liquor license including among others, restrictions in hours of alcohol sales and service (no later than midnight on any night of the week); an annual re-application process and annual liquor license hearing; affidavits for two of the four owners that they are not authorized or allowed to be involved in alcohol sales and service; and that any violation of the Liquor Code will result in immediate revocation of the liquor license.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Kotynek to recommend that the Board of Trustees approve an additional A-2 Restaurant License and that the license be issued to Cheesie's La Grange LLC with specific conditions as noted and pending background checks for two additional liquor managers. The motion carried on a voice vote.

#### 4. Other Business

A. Discussion regarding a request by the LGBA regarding the Holiday Walk

Liquor Commissioner Livingston asked Ms. Peterson to introduce a request from the LGBA to provide for a closure of Calendar Avenue from La Grange Road to Ashland Avenue in order to include a Kris Kringle market in conjunction with the 2017 Hometown Holiday event. The market would feature booths with craft items as well as the sale and service of food and alcohol.

Liquor Commissioner Livingston welcomed Ms. Kathy Dierkes of the LGBA. Ms. Dierkes indicated that the LGBA is in the beginning stages of planning the event. They have polled businesses on Calendar Avenue and instead would like to request closing Harris Avenue from parking lot #8 to La Grange Road. Access to all parking lots would be provided and attendees can use the pedestrian walkway from Harris Avenue to Calendar Avenue.

Commissioner Kotynek asked about the vendors. Ms. Dierkes stated that the LGBA is looking at inviting outside and local retailers. Mulled wine only will be served in a controlled tent environment through a ticket system with restricted pours by LGBA members familiar with serving at other events - VINO e Birra and Cork, Keg and Spirits.

After discussion it was the consensus of the Liquor Commission that the proposal would enhance the event. Liquor Commissioner Livingston thanked the LGBA and requested that they work with staff to finalize the request as a part of the overall event approval process by the Village Board of Trustees.

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 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Andrianna Peterson  
Village Manager

Date Approved: