

LA GRANGE LIQUOR COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING

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

Monday, January 13, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

A special meeting of the La Grange Liquor Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Liquor Commissioner Thomas Livingston.

Present and constituting a quorum were Liquor Commissioner Thomas Livingston, Commissioner Mike Kotynek and Commissioner Mark Kuchler.

Absent: None

Also present: Village Trustee Beth Augustine, 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 November 11, 2019, as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Consideration of Amendments to Chapter 111 of the La Grange Liquor Code

Liquor Commissioner Livingston asked Village Manager Peterson to provide an overview of the proposed Liquor Code amendments.

Village Manager Peterson responded that the owners of Milk Money Brewing LLC d/b/a Milk Money Brewing have requested an amendment to the liquor code that would allow their restaurant (defined in the Zoning Code as a Brewpub) to brew 2,000 barrels (31 gallons per barrel) or less of beer brewed or manufactured primarily for consumption in an adjoining full-service restaurant, sold in limited quantities through a licensed distributor, and at retail.

The applicants have requested that the sale of brewed beer for consumption off premise be provided in the form of six packs of 12 or 16 oz. cans or in crowlers not larger than 32 ounces. Brewed beer would also be sold seasonally (four times per year) in 750 mL bombers. The applicants' business plan also states that 95% of beer revenue will be from on-premise consumption and 5% will be from sales for off-site consumption (distribution and retail sales). These sales are projected to be 1% of the total revenues projected for the business. The applicants' business plan also states that they anticipate that food will account for 65% of

their gross annual revenue if beer retail sales and distribution sales are included, and account for 66% of gross annual revenue if beer retail sales and distribution sales are excluded from the 60% food sales requirement. As a result, staff proposes that the sale of brewed beer sold for off-premise consumption (excluding the Beer Club sales as outlined below) be included in the 60% compliance requirement at this time. The Liquor Commission has the option of revisiting the applicability of excluding all or certain sales upon request from the applicants if those numbers were to change in the future.

In addition, the owners have requested the ability to amend the current D-2 Wine Club license to add a Beer Club License under the D-2 License category. Like the current Wine Club license, the beers featured at a Beer Club Event may include only those brewed on premises and may be sold only to club members, attendees of the Event or later out of the restaurant's regular stock. Those beers may not be sold to the general public during the Event. Fifteen events may be conducted in a year. Brewed beer sold for off premise consumption at Beer Club Events (same as the current Wine Club provisions) would not be subject to the 60% food compliance requirement.

Section 111.45 of the current Liquor Code prohibits the advertisement of liquor on the outside of a building or window where the sign or advertisement is visible from outside the building. The applicant is proposing to use the name Milk Money Brewing, and include the name as advertising on its exterior / window signage. Newly licensed restaurant Milk Stop at 700 W. Burlington has also requested to add the words "café" and "cocktails" in their advertisements on the building under the name - Milk Stop. The proposed amendment to the liquor code would allow some flexibility in the name / signage / advertising as long as it does not "create an illusion that an establishment is primarily a drinking place", or "would otherwise mislead or confuse the public as to the primary business of the establishment".

President Livingston thanked the Milk Money Brewing group for their investment and for bringing a unique concept to La Grange.

Matt Bumba stated that they request that any brewed beer sold at retail would not count towards the 60% food sales requirement, only third party beer would apply.

Commissioner Livingston stated that he is supportive of their new, innovative concept of bringing a brewpub to La Grange. He noted that the proposed amendments to the code provide for anticipated sales outlined in their business plan and that the Village Board must consider investments of all businesses when considering significant changes to the code.

Commissioner Kotynek inquired as to the timeframe for brewing their beer and if the equipment was visible. The Brewer, Erik Pizer, responded that the process takes one day, and then a few weeks or months for fermentation to occur before a final, finished product is available. Lucas Bumba responded that the brewing equipment was visible.

Commissioner Kuchler noted that other breweries such as BuckleDown and Lagunitas Brewing have achieved success. He stated that as Milk Money Brewing is located downtown, that it must have a commitment to food. If beer sales did not count towards the 60% requirement it could result in limited food sales which is not equitable to other restaurants.

Matt Bumba stated that Milk Money Brewing is committed to food and includes an open kitchen component. Commissioner Kuchler responded that amendments to the code apply to everyone including the next applicant that may not be a trained chef or be as committed to food. He noted that based on their business plan it does not appear that additional changes to the code are necessary at this time. He further noted that Milk Money Brewing could always return and ask for additional code amendments in the future if their business model changes.

Commissioner Livingston agreed, stating that the Village has been accommodating and is responsive to their requests through the proposed amendments.

After further discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Kotynek that the La Grange Code of Ordinances Chapter 111 regarding the Liquor Code be amended as presented. Motion carried.

4. Liquor License Request Class A-2 / Milk Money Brewing LLC d/b/a Milk Money Brewing

Liquor Commissioner Livingston asked Village Manager Peterson to provide an overview of the liquor license application.

Village Manager Peterson responded that the Village has received an application for a Class A-2 liquor license from Milk Money Brewing LLC d/b/a Milk Money Brewing located at 75 S. La Grange Road. Matthew Bumba is the President and Manager (19.25% ownership), Lucas Bumba is the Vice President and Manager (19.25% ownership), ILSJ Holdings LLC (John Janowski and Sara Lademan) – John Janowski is the Secretary and Member (17.5% ownership), Jack Bridges is the Treasurer and Member (2.5% ownership), Roger Veome is a Member (15% ownership), Venkata Narla is a Member (9% ownership), Heriberto Vale is a Member (7.5% ownership), and the additional 10% is split between Jay Rosicky, Michael Stanley, and Adhemar Dellagiustina Jr., none with an individual percentage larger than 5%. Lucas Bumba and Matt Bumba will both be operating as store managers and liquor managers.

A Class A-2 Restaurant License authorizes the licensee to sell at retail and serve alcoholic liquor for consumption in the restaurant's dining area in conjunction with a meal and also in a bar or lounge area of the licensed premises. In controlling the dispensing of alcohol, applicants and licensees of a Class A-2 must prove to the satisfaction of the Village that more than 60% of the gross annual revenue of the dining establishment has resulted from the sale of food. Alcoholic liquor may be served at either the bar and lounge area or in the general seating area. This license also authorizes the licensee to allow customers to carry in their own beer and wine to be consumed within the licensed premises, but only in conjunction with the service of a meal. As described above, the Class A-2 License does not currently have provisions regarding brewed beer, therefore, if the Village Board is inclined to issue a liquor license for Milk Money Brewing, then the Liquor Code will need to be amended accordingly.

After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Kotynek and seconded by Commissioner Kuchler that the Liquor Commission recommends: (a) that the Village Board of Trustees creates one new Class A-2 Liquor License and (b) that the Liquor Commissioner issues that license to Milk Money Brewing LLC

d/b/a Milk Money Brewing at 75 S. La Grange Road. Motion carried.

President Livingston thanked the applicants and stated that the recommendation for approval would be made to the Village Board at its meeting on January 27, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

5. Consideration of Amendments to Section 111.19(2) and Section 111.19(3) of the Liquor Code pursuant to State Statute

After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Kuchler and seconded by Commissioner Kotynek that the Liquor Commission amend Sections 111.19(2) and 111.19(3) of the Liquor Code pursuant to State Statute. Motion carried.

6. Other Business

None.

7. 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 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by:
Andrianna Peterson
Village Manager

Date Approved: