

ALCOHOL CONTROL COMMISSION

Monday, July 18, 2016

The Alcohol Control Commission met at 5:00 p.m. this date in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, 601 Broad Street. Chairman Slack presided with Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Stevenson, Mr. Hyde, and Mr. Doss present. Mr. Redding was absent.

Minutes – June 20, 2016

The minutes of the June 20, 2016 meeting, as submitted in writing by the Secretary, were approved by an unanimous consent.

Fall Festival Block Party – October 15, 2016

Secretary Smith explained that on February 15, 2016, the Alcohol Control Commission had approved a request for a public consumption of alcohol during the Harbin Clinic Block Party. This Block Party was planned for October 15, 2016 in the 200, 300, and 400 Blocks of Broad Street between the hours of 5 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Downtown Development Director Ann Arnold was present today to request an amendment to the hours of this Block Party. Ms. Arnold explained that the event will be more of a fall festival type of event, and the requested hours are now from noon until 8:30 p.m. The event will still take place in the 200, 300, and 400 Blocks of Broad Street. There will be some activities taking place on 5th Avenue during this event; however, alcohol will not be involved. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the revision as submitted. Commissioner Stevenson seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

OJ Liquor Store and Anum Food and Gas – 1600 Shorter Avenue

Secretary Smith explained that there are two applications involving 1600 Shorter Avenue. This is the site of the former World Hi-Fi Electronic Store, and there are plans to rehabilitate this property with a new façade and the creation of several suites of offices. Among the businesses planned for this location are a new liquor store and a new convenient store that would sell beer (package).

At the January, 2016 meeting of the Alcohol Control Commission, an approval was given to Mr. Larry Martin to construct a liquor store at 1614 Shorter Avenue. Mr. Martin was given 180 days to acquire his alcohol license, or apply for an extension. Since January, the City of Rome is unaware of any activity taking place at 1614 Shorter Avenue. Mr. Martin had told the Alcohol Control Commission he planned to demolish three structures on this property and construct a new building which would house a liquor store. Currently, the structures are still in place, and there has apparently not been any progress made towards constructing this new building. Mr. Martin was notified by the City Clerk's Office that his 180-day period was expiring; however, Mr. Martin has not filed for an extension.

Both state law and city ordinance prohibit new liquor stores from being within 1500 feet of each other. Due to this law, Mr. Martin's liquor store at 1614 Shorter Avenue could not coexist with the planned liquor store at 1600 Shorter Avenue.

Local attorney Chris Jackson was present representing Mr. Mohammad Gaffar, the licensee for both OJ Liquor Store and Anum Food and Gas. Mr. Jackson explained that Mr. Gaffar planned to renovate 1600 Shorter Avenue and create space for several new businesses including the planned liquor store and convenient store. Gas pumps will also be installed as part of the convenient store. Although there is a church in close proximity to the east of 1600 Shorter Avenue, Mr. Jackson stated that they anticipated the surveyor's measurements to indicate that both alcohol establishments will be in excess of 300 feet of the nearest church property. To the west of 1600 Shorter Avenue, there is also a structure, although not owned by the religious organization, which is being rented and used as a church. This structure is also expected to be more than 300 feet from either alcohol establishment.

Mr. Gaffar was present, along with his son and stated that all employees working at both establishments will be properly trained in the sale of alcohol beverages. Mr. Gaffar is experienced in the operation of establishments selling alcohol.

Mr. Hyde moved to approve the request for a Beer, Wine, and Liquor Package License for OJ Liquor Store, 1600 Shorter Avenue, subject to the submission of the appropriate surveyor's alcohol plat and subject to all final inspections and approvals by the appropriate City officials. Commissioner Stevenson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Mr. Doss moved to approve the request for a new Beer Package License at Anum Food and Gas, 1600 Shorter Avenue, subject to the submission of the appropriate surveyor's alcohol plat and subject to all final inspections and approvals by the appropriate City officials. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Police Report

Rome Police Major Rodney Bailey was present and stated that there was no police report to be submitted for the previous 30-day period. There have been no arrest or incident reports at alcohol establishments during that time.

Major Bailey did briefly update the Alcohol Control Commission on the status of Rome Police Motorcycle Officer Mike Simmons who was injured in an on-the-job accident last week. Officer Simmons has had surgery to repair his broken leg and surgery on his hand and wrist. Officer Simmons is beginning his recuperation process.

Adjourned

With there being no further business, Chairman Slack adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Joseph F. Smith
City Clerk