

ALCOHOL CONTROL COMMISSION

Monday, October 17, 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 Irscher (substituting for Commissioner Stevenson), Mr. Hyde, and Mr. Doss present.

Minutes – August 15, 2016

The minutes of the August 15, 2016 meeting, as submitted in writing by the Secretary, were approved by an unanimous consent. There was no meeting held in September 2016.

Alex's Grocery & Salvage, 1916 Dean Avenue

The application of Kristie Wisham, manager of Alex's Grocery & Salvage, 1916 Dean Avenue, was presented. Ms. Wisham requested that a new Beer Package License be issued to her at that location. Secretary Smith explained that this will be the first time that an alcohol license has been issued at this location (at least in recent history), and that the location does meet the qualifications for a Beer Package License.

Ms. Wisham explained that this is the first time she has applied to be an alcohol licensee; however, she has current and former employment experience that involved the sale of alcohol. There is a training program planned for all employees in anticipation of checking IDs on all alcohol sales. A cash register system will be employed that will require the input of the customer's date of birth prior to alcohol sales.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the license request as submitted, subject to the final inspections and approvals by the appropriate City officials. Mr. Hyde seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Uncle Sam's Food Mart, 1019 North Broad Street

The application of Abubaker Khan, owner and manager of Uncle Sam's Food Mart, 1019 North Broad Street, was presented. Mr. Khan requested that a new Beer Package License be issued to him at that location. This location has been the site of an alcohol license in the past, although it has been many years. The location does still qualify even though there is a residentially zoned house nearby; it is more than 150 feet away. Since Mr. Khan does not live in Floyd County, he has named Ms. Kristie Wisham as his local agent. There was some discussion regarding the purpose for a local agent. The State of Georgia prohibits local governments from preventing an out-of-town person from holding an alcohol license; however, it does allow local governments to request a local agent when the licensee lives out of town. This practice is of questionable importance since, if there is a violation, the licensee (regardless of where they live) is instructed to appear before the Alcohol Control Commission for the Hearing.

There were standard questions regarding training programs and the importance of not allowing any alcohol sales to persons under 21 years of age.

Mr. Hyde moved to appear the license request as submitted, subject to all final inspections and approvals by the appropriate City officials. Commissioner Lee seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Beer Package Transfer Process

Secretary Smith reported that City Staff is recommending that the ACC consider an ordinance amendment which would change the process use for transferring Beer Package License. It was explained that Beer Package transfers constitutes the vast majority of alcohol license transfers. Since all transfers are subject to a 10% fee, there is not much revenue generated from Beer Package transfers, even though they require the same amount of time of City Staff as other types of alcohol licenses (which do generate more revenue). Staff is recommending the consideration of a 50% transfer fee for Beer Package License.

There was some discussion by the ACC concerning this concept. It was suggested that we also consider a “flat” transfer fee, rather than the 10% fee, for all alcohol license since the transfer process is basically the same for all licenses.

This matter will be studied in more detail by Staff and will be on the November ACC Agenda.

Police Report

Rome Police Major Rodney Bailey was present and presented the police report for the previous 30-day period. There were three arrests (one at El Patron, Redmond Road, and two at Empire, Broad Street) that occurred during that time; however, they were all the result of self-policing by the alcohol establishments.

Adjourned

With there being no further business, Chairman Slack adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Joseph F. Smith
City Clerk