

ALCOHOL CONTROL COMMISSION

Monday, June 20, 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, Mr. Redding, and Mr. Doss present.

Minutes – May 16, 2016

The minutes of the May 16, 2016 meeting, as submitted in writing by the Secretary, were approved by an unanimous consent.

Goat's General Store, 222 Broad Street

The application of Mike Elliott, owner and manager of Goat's General Store, 222 Broad Street, was presented. Mr. Elliott requested that a new Beer Pouring License be issued to him at that location. Mr. Elliott was present, and all papers were in order. It was explained that Mr. Elliott previously held a Beer Pouring License from the City of Rome; however, he chose not to renew that license at the beginning of 2016. Mr. Elliott continues to hold a Beer Package License at this location.

Mr. Elliott explained that he did not have the finances to renew his Beer Pouring License for 2016; however, with the opening of the Hampton Inn Hotel downtown (in addition to the success of the Hawthorn Suites), he feels that there is more demand for his business. He also would like to capitalize on the downtown Block Parties as they occur.

There was some discussion with Mr. Elliott concerning his problem in 2015 regarding his back door issue. Mr. Elliott explained that he has changed his back door to a configuration that allow customers to exit the back, but would not allow persons from the outside to easily enter. He further explained that he also will use a security guard when needed to prevent a reoccurrence of the problem from 2015 in which persons were coming in to his back room pouring area after the allowed hours of alcohol consumption.

Mr. Hyde moved to approve the Beer Pouring License request as submitted. Commissioner Stevenson seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

The Forum – Safari Hospitality Management, 301 Tribune Street

The application of B. Michael Bankston, manager of Safari Hospitality Management, 301 Tribune Street (The Forum), was presented. Mr. Bankston requested that a new Beer, Wine, and Liquor Pouring License be issued to him at that location. It was explained that, on June 13th, the Rome City Commission approved an ordinance amendment which would create a new category of pouring license specifically targeting the Forum. The benefit of this ordinance amendment is that the Forum will no longer be subject to the City of Rome's Food/Drink Ratio requirement. Mr. Bankston had previously petitioned

the City to create this type of category since the Forum would not be able to meet the City of Rome's Food/Drink Ratio.

Mr. Bankston addressed the Commission and reemphasized the importance of alcohol sales regarding the Forum's new business model. Under Safari Hospitality Management, the Forum will change their method of operation in the near future. Mr. Bankston was asked where revenue from future alcohol sales would be directed. He stated all revenue sources would be generated at the Forum would go to the Floyd County government as the owner of the Forum.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request for a new Beer, Wine, and Liquor Pouring License at the Forum to Safari Hospitality Management as requested. Commissioner Stevenson seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Troy's Barbeque, 1024 North Broad Street

The application of Ms. Sondra A. Wendt was presented. Ms. Wendt requested that a new Beer Pouring License be issued to her at Troy's Barbeque, 1024 North Broad Street. Ms. Wendt was present, and all papers were in order. While this is a new license request for Troy's Barbeque, it was noted that Troy's did hold a City of Rome Pouring License many years ago at the previous location near the Broadus Coker Bridge on Calhoun Avenue (1950's).

Ms. Wendt explained that the intended purpose is to increase the business at Troy's in the evening hours. She stated that they commonly have requests for beer pouring during those hours. Ms. Wendt is familiar with Rome's rules and regulations and explained her plans to ID all persons purchasing alcohol.

Mr. Hyde moved to approve the Beer Pouring License request as submitted. Mr. Doss seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Alcohol Sales Permit Appeal – Geneva Brown

Ms. Geneva Brown addressed the Alcohol Control Commission requesting permission to acquire a City of Rome Alcohol Sales Permit.

Secretary Smith explained that Ms. Brown is a convicted felon having been convicted of a felony charge for criminal damage to property in May 2014. City of Rome's alcohol ordinance prohibits a convicted felon from obtaining an alcohol sales permit within three years of the date of their conviction. This code establishes a 10-year prohibition for certain violent felonies.

Ms. Brown explained that she has a job waiting for her at Buffalo's Café, and that the owner of the establishment is aware of her felony condition and is willing to hire her if the ACC will approve her appeal. Ms. Brown also stated that, although it was not put in writing, her probation officer did not object to her obtaining this permit and establishing employment at Buffalo's Café. During the course of the conversation between Ms. Brown and the ACC, she expressed remorse for her felony conviction for criminal

damage to property stating that she would remain on probation for this offense until her restitution payments are complete. She said that she was not from this area and is expecting her first child in September.

Mr. Doss moved to approve Ms. Brown's appeal and grant her permission to obtain a City of Rome Alcohol Sales Permit. Mr. Redding seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Police Report

Rome Police Major Paul Webber was present and presented the police report for the previous 30-day period. The only alcohol related arrests on the report were those that took place during the May 13th – 14th River Jam which was held in Ridge Ferry Park. Six arrests for disorderly conduct were reported, along with one case of underage possession of alcohol.

Adjourned

With there being no further business, Chairman Slack adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Joseph F. Smith
City Clerk