

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>



Meeting Minutes - Final

Friday, January 6, 2023

3:30 PM

**Special Meeting - To participate remotely on Zoom, Enter Webinar ID:
913 9805 3207 Passcode: 701607**

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Basement, conference room

Council Liquor License Review Committee

CALL TO ORDER

City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry called the meeting of the Council Liquor License Review Committee to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Basement Conference Room, Guy C. Larcom Jr. Municipal Building, 301 E. Huron Street.

Rachel Wineberg of the City Clerk's Office, Assistant City Attorney John Reiser and City Treasurer Mike Pettigrew were also present.

ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Lisa Disch, Chris Watson, Dharma Akmon and Travis Radina

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Radina, seconded by Councilmember Watson, that the Agenda be approved with the following changes:

Add Election of Chair immediately following approval of the Agenda.

On a voice vote, the City Clerk declared the motion carried.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Councilmember Radina moved, seconded by Councilmember Akmon, that Councilmember Disch be appointed Chairperson of the Council Liquor License Review Committee.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and Councilmember Disch took over as Chairperson.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Adam Lowenstein, representing Liberty Drinks, LLC, spoke about his current application for a Redevelopment District License. He stated that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission is not reviewing development district licenses in Ann Arbor due to the fact that there are still quota licenses available. He noted that two of the City's eight applicants, who were approved by City Council last June, have not yet applied for the licenses that the City granted them last year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[22-2118](#) Council Liquor License Review Committee Minutes of May 6, 2022

A motion was made by Councilmember Disch, seconded by Councilmember Radina, that the Liquor Committee Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2022 be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council by 1/23/2023. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

22-2148 Enactment No: R-23-013 Recommended for Adoption

Resolution to Recommend Approval of Issuance of a Downtown Development District Liquor License to Tatsu, Inc.

City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry presented the application of Tatsu, Inc. to the committee. She stated that this is the first redevelopment district license that is ready for review by City Council and the MLCC since the City issued new quota licenses last June.

The attorney representing the applicant was on Zoom and available for questions, if needed.

There was discussion regarding the public speaker's comment regarding a delay in approval of DDA licenses due to the City's quota license process and the issuance of the eight new licenses not being finalized at the State level. City staff stated they have spoken to the MLCC and plan to send the City's approval of the final two applicants directly to the State, whereas they had been waiting for the applicants to apply with the State. City staff also said they would alert the remaining two applicants of this fact and encourage them to move forward with the process of final State approval.

It was decided that the City would also provide newly approved applicants for DDA licenses with a letter indicating that the City does not have available Class C licenses to issue, until all available licenses were indicated by the MLCC as "allocated" or "issued."

A motion was made by Councilmember Radina, seconded by Councilmember Akmon, that the Resolution be recommended for adoption by the City Council on 1/9/2023. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Status Update on New Class C Liquor License Applications

Clerk Beaudry provided background on the annual renewal process and the proposed schedule.

Rachel Weinberg, with the City Clerk's Office, provided a status update on each of the eight applicants approved by the City Council on June 6, 2022 for issuance of a new Class C quota license. Of the two remaining applicants to begin the State process for approval, one (A2Wineman, LLC) is on today's agenda for a clarification regarding building address. The other applicant (Chela's Restaurant and Taqueria, LLC) has indicated personal reasons for the delay. Ms. Weinberg stated a representative from Chela's will be alerted that the City is forwarding the approval directly to the State in the next week.

Staff stated they expect the licenses will be internally noted as "allocated" at the MLCC once the City approval is received and a file is opened. An application from the applicant is required in order for the status to change on the MLCC website from "available" to "allocated."

22-2155

Enactment No: R-23-014

Recommended for Adoption

Resolution to Revise Previous Approval of Issuance of New Full-Year Class C Quota Liquor License in the City of Ann Arbor to A2WINEMAN, LLC

Sponsors: Council Liquor License Review Committee

Clerk Beaudry provided background regarding this Resolution, stating the applicant is the owner of several adjacent buildings and his plans have changed regarding the exact space that will be used for the on-premise service of alcoholic beverages. The applicant plans to maintain the same concept as originally proposed except that it will be co-located with his wine shop (packaged sales).

A motion was made by Councilmember Radina, seconded by Councilmember Watson, that the Resolution be recommended for adoption by the City Council on 1/9/2023. The recommendation was based on the fact that A2Wineman, LLC (dba Zinovia's), offers a unique food concept (Ukrainian) and a neighborhood location. The applicant is also proposing to meet the City's A2Zero goals with a future solar installation.

On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

INFORMATION/UPCOMING BUSINESS

22-2120 City Council Liquor License Review Committee 2023 Annual Renewal Schedule

Clerk Beaudry reviewed the proposed schedule with the Committee and talked further about the due dates for the annual renewal process. It was noted that any objections must be finalized by City Council no later than March 30 or the State LCC will proceed with annual renewal at their level.

Ms. Weinberg noted the only staff objections for annual renewal this year came from Treasury regarding a small delinquent tax payment. The licensee, Tios on Liberty, is currently delinquent to the City in the amount of \$263.19.

Following further discussion, Councilmember Disch moved, seconded by Councilmember Watson, that City staff proceed with a second request to Tios indicating possible further action if the delinquency is not settled. The due date for the payment was set at January 27, to avoid further action. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilmember Watson, seconded by Councilmember Radina, that the Annual Calendar be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business before the Committee, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

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**City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

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