

City of Northville
Liquor License Review Committee
October 5, 2015

Call to Order

A meeting of the Liquor License Review Committee was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building, City Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167.

It was noted that Mayor Pro Tem James Allen, Councilmember Ryan McKindles, and Member John Buckland were present.

Also present were City Manager Patrick Sullivan, City Clerk Dianne Massa, Police Chief Michael Carlson, representatives from Center Street Grille, and two citizens.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Agenda

Motion McKindles, seconded by Buckland to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion Buckland seconded by McKindles to approve the May 18, 2015 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Request to Transfer Class C and SDM Liquor License with Outdoor Service
135 N. Center Street**

135 N. Center, LLC, d/b/a Center Street Grill, a partnership owned by JDL Holdings (Joseph Comiskey, Daniel Johnson, and Landon Garrett), John Corsi and Phillip Zakaria, requested transfer of ownership of an escrowed Class C and SDM Liquor License, owned by The Starting Gate Saloon, Inc. The escrowed license has a Sunday Sales permit, as well as a dance permit. Center Street Grill is dropping the dance permit and intends to add AM Sunday Sales and an Outdoor Service permit to the license. The business is to be located at 135 N. Center Street, which is currently being renovated to accommodate this business.

The applicants submitted the Liquor License Review Committee Application indicating they intend to operate an American Contemporary sit-down restaurant with table bar service. The business will have an interior seating capacity of 98 persons, including 10 seats at the bar, as well as additional seating outdoors. The ratio of food to alcohol sales is anticipated to be 60% food and 40% alcoholic beverages. The Plan of Operation indicates that the business will be

open 11:00am – 11:00pm Monday through Thursday; and 11:00am – 12:00am Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays; however, if there is a major televised sporting event, they would remain open later, but under no circumstances later than 2am. Patrons of the restaurant will park in public parking. Notice of this public hearing has been provided in accordance to the City's Liquor Management Ordinance.

The applicants have successfully operated similar liquor license establishments for several years in other communities. Currently, the applicants own and operate the following liquor licensed establishments:

- Mr. Zakaria - owns and operates the Library Sports Pub in West Bloomfield. (9 Years).
- Mr. Corsi - owns and operates Cellar 849 (6 years) and Barrio Concina Y Tequileria (1+ year) in Plymouth.
- Mr. Comiskey, Mr. Garrett, and Mr. Johnson - co-own Ironwood Grill in Plymouth. They are also partnered with two other stockholders owning 336 Main in Plymouth.(6 years)

Staff has conducted a background check on the applicants and their businesses and has found the following MLCC violations:

- The Ironwood Grill
 1. Failing to provide proof of alcohol training
 2. Warning for entertainment without an entertainment permit
- 336 Piano Bar
 1. Sold to intoxicated persons, allowed intoxicated persons to consume on premises, and allowed intoxicated person to loiter on premises
 2. Failing to provide proof of alcohol training

Although the background check revealed the above violations, the applicants currently operate four establishments with 20+ years combined experience as restaurateurs. It was noted that all fees and costs have been paid by the applicants.

Public hearing opened at 6:35 p.m.

Questions from the LLRC pertained to their planned opening date (November 2015) and concerns with the violation of failing to provide proof of alcohol training as noted above. The applicants explained that this violation was, in fact, a clerical error. The training company trained the employees, but did not file the training documents with the State. The applicants did not realize this and did not follow up. Training documentation was provided to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC), but it was provided after the 180 day deadline. All employees will be trained by TAMS, and their proof of training will be sent to the MLCC. All employees will receive training even if they have previously attended training for their previous employer. Employees are required to carry proof of training and present this proof when requested to do so.

In response to a question from the LLRC as to whether these violations were the only violations in the last six years, the Police Chief explained that while other violations may have been filed, these were the violations of which they were found to be responsible.

Being no further comments, the public hearing closed at 6:41 p.m.

Motion McKindles, seconded by Buckland to recommend that City Council take no action to object to the transfer of a Class C and SDM License with AM/PM Sunday sales and outdoor service permit for 135 N. Center, LLC, d/b/a Center Street Grill. **Motion carried unanimously.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Massa
City Clerk

Approved as submitted: 01/19/2016