

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
ALD. MAUREEN LEWIS, CHAIR  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 8:20 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Present:** Lemke, Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek, Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner

**Absent:** None

**3. Administrative**

- a. Fuel Tax Information August, 2020
- b. Video Gaming Information September, 2020

**4. Omnibus Vote**

Items with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine matters and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a council member/citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in normal sequence on the agenda.

Motion by Ald. Bancroft, second by Ald. Vitek to approve the omnibus vote.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Lemke, Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek, Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Nays: None. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman. **Motion Carried**

**5. Police Department**

- a. **Recommendation to approve a Proposal for a D10 Liquor License Application for Urban Air, Located at 2732 E. Main St., St. Charles.**

Chief Keegan mentioned that this item was presented at the Liquor Control Commission meeting earlier and passed with a vote of 3 – 0. This license is a D-10 which is similar to Chuck-E-Cheese, or Funway. They are located in the Foxfield Commons Shopping Center in the former Butera location. The local Manager, Kevin White, was also present at the meeting. Chief Keegan explained that alcohol consumption would take place in the Café area of the establishment. If a patron purchases alcohol they will not be allowed on attractions. If they have a wristband for attractions it will be cut, voiding the wristband.

Kevin White addressed the Council and explained that the staff of Urban Air is trained that if alcohol is consumed patrons are not allowed on the attractions. Additionally, he explained that staff alerts adults to this policy when they arrive. Additionally, there is signage explaining the policy posted at the establishment.

Ald. Lewis confirmed with Mr. White that only certain amounts of people are allowed in the building and that they are masked. Mr. White said they are currently only allowing 100 people in the building and that masks are worn at all times.

Motion by Ald. Payleitner, second by Ald. Stellato to recommend the approval of a Proposal for a D10 Liquor License Application for Urban Air, Located at 2732 E. Main St., St. Charles.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Lemke, Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek, Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner; Nays: None. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman. **Motion Carried**

**b. Recommendation to approve a Proposal for an A1 Liquor License Application for MP's Liquor, Wine & Beer, Located at 201 W. Main St., St. Charles.**

Chief Keegan explained that this application was presented at the Liquor Control Commission meeting and did not advance. The vote was 3-0 to deny the recommendation to this committee. Chief noted that Pratik Patel owns liquor stores in Batavia and North Aurora. The Batavia location was cited for delivery of alcohol to a minor to which he pleads liable and was fined \$1,000. There have been no issues with the location in North Aurora. Chief Keegan said that he spoke with the Chiefs of Police in both Batavia and North Aurora and reviewed his background material. Chief Keegan stated that Mr. Patel was not forthcoming with the information he provided and that he has had some very frank conversations with Mr. Patel regarding these issues. His Dram Shop, site and floor plans, and basset training are in order.

Mr. Patel stated that he was nervous while at the Liquor Control Commission meeting and didn't understand what they were asking. He acknowledged that he wasn't forthcoming with the information because he was trying to hide the violation. He ensured the Committee Members that it will not happen again.

Ald. Silkaitis pointed out the only store listed on the application is the North Aurora store. The Batavia store wasn't listed at all. Because of this Ald. Silkaitis indicated that he would be voting against this application. Mr. Patel explained that the store in St. Charles has the same name as the North Aurora Store which is why he didn't include the Batavia store as part of the application. Mr. Patel further explained that he is going to be selling his share of the Batavia store. He acknowledged that it was a mistake to leave that information off the application.

Ald. Vitek asked Chief Keegan if he is comfortable with the establishment. Chief Keegan stated that he's had some frank discussions with Mr. Patel to let him know that they would be watching his establishment closely and there is zero tolerance for this type of violation. Ald. Vitek asked about the discussions Chief had with the Chiefs of Police in Batavia and North Aurora. Chief Keegan answered that the location in North Aurora hasn't had any issues. The location in Batavia, where the applicant is a 25% owner, has

had some complaints regarding underage sales.

Ald. Stellato asked Mr. Patel if he is going to be investing money in the building. Mr. Patel said that he is going to be installing coolers for the beer cave, which is approximately \$35,000, a new floating floor is going in, new counters, shelving, security camera, and they will be using third party replication instead of POS.

Ald. Payleitner stated that all the scrutiny that goes into issuing a liquor license is to make sure we get an accurate picture of the business and the applicant. She said she saw 6 red flags in the detective's report, and the detective was misled on more than one occasion. Ald. Payleitner stated that she believes the detectives interpretation on this application and will be voting no.

Ald. Lemke asked what the provisions are for parking. The application said that based on the community, it would be mostly walking traffic. He said he's not sure if someone will park in front, but they aren't promoting that. Ald. Lemke asked if they have spaces available in the vacant lot next to the location. Chief Keegan said that is a possibility.

Ald. Lewis asked if parking is required for retail businesses. Rita Tungare answered that it depends on the type of use and the parking requirements in the zoning ordinance.

Ald. Lewis asked if the rear entrance and front entrance will be used. The applicant said that they would. Ald. Lewis stated that she is concerned about safety with the front entrance.

Ald. Bancroft said that the material provided and leaving things off the application is not the way to start a relationship with the City of St. Charles. He asked Chief Keegan if a license has ever been issued to someone who has had a violation in another jurisdiction. Chief Keegan answered that it most likely has. Ald. Bancroft asked the council members if leaving information off an application would be reason to deny the license. He asked for clarification on the position of the Liquor Control Commission.

Ald. Pietryla answered that the Liquor Commission members were concerned about the selling to minors and that is what prompted the no votes.

Ald. Payleitner added that it's also the lack of trust, not just the violation.

The property owner addressed the committee explained that the property has been in their family since the late 1970's. He said he understands the concerns of the Council. He stated that the applicant is putting money in the business and that's important to him. He wasn't aware of the issues with the application and asked the applicant about it right away. The applicant said it was a mistake. The building owner said it would be nice to have this business at the location because if we get shut down it will stay open.

Ald. Lewis said that the misleading information on the application was concerning to

her. She expressed concerns with the corner entrance and safety of the patrons. She also noted that we've never seen a unanimous vote like that from the LCC.

Motion by Ald. Vitek., second by Ald. Stellato to recommend the approval of a Proposal for an A1 Liquor License Application for MP's Liquor, Wine & Beer, Located at 201 W. Main St., St. Charles.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek, Bessner, Stellato; Nays: Lemke, Pietryla, Silkaitis, Payleitner. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman. **Motion Carried**

**6. Finance Department**

**\*a. Budget Revisions September, 2020**

Motion by Ald. Bancroft, second by Ald. Vitek to approve the omnibus vote.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Lemke, Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek, Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Nays: None. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman. **Motion Carried**

**7. City Administration**

**a. St. Charles Business Alliance Holiday Homecoming 2020 – Information Only**

Jenna Sawicki, the executive director from the St. Charles Business alliance presented the plans for Holiday Homecoming 2020.

**8. Additional Items from Mayor, Council, Staff, or Citizens.**

**9. Executive Session**

- Personnel – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
- Pending Litigation – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)
- Probable or Imminent Litigation – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)
- Property Acquisition – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)
- Collective Bargaining – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)
- Review of Executive Session Minutes – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)

**10. Adjournment**

Motion by Ald. Lemke, second by Ald. Payleitner to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 pm.

**Voice Vote:** Ayes: Unanimous; Nays; None: Chairman Lewis did not vote as chair.  
**Motion Carried.**

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