



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER**

**Thursday, April 25, 2024**

**Commissioners Present:** Anthony Vigliotti, Chair  
Charran Fisher, Commissioner  
Maritza Cruz, Commissioner

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Sergeant Thomas Needham, Worcester Police Department  
Officer Patrick Harrington, Worcester Police Department  
Alexandra Kalkounis, Law Department  
Deborah Steele, Licensing  
\*ABCC state investigator participated remotely for Creed Lounge hearing

**Call to Order – 10:00 A.M.**

**Minutes: April 11, 2024**

Upon a motion made and duly seconded the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of April 11, 2024.

**Requests for Continuances, Extensions, Postponements, & Withdrawals**

**One Day Liquor & Entertainment Requests**

**1. Axe to Grind Barbershop, 174 Shrewsbury Street**

**Request for one day liquor license**

- Saturday-May 4, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.
- Saturday-June 1, 2024-7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.
- Saturday-July 6, 2024-7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
- Saturday-August 3, 2024-7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.
- Saturday-September 7, 2024-7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

**Request for one day entertainment license for comedy show**

- Saturday-May 4, 2024 – 8:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m.
- Saturday-June 1, 2024-8:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m.
- Saturday-July 6, 2024-8:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m.
- Saturday-August 3, 2024-8:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m.
- Saturday-September 7, 2024-8:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m.

Upon a motion made and duly seconded the Commission voted 3-0 to allow for Leave to Withdraw for the one-day liquor and entertainment licenses.

**2. Water Lantern Festival, Elm Park, 138 Russell Street  
Request for one day entertainment license**

- **Saturday-July 27, 2024 -5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Rain date August 3, 2024**

Logan Buchanan, participating remotely, stated that this is for the annual water lantern festival at Elm Park. We start about three hours before sunset and then go to one hour after sunset. There will be food trucks and this event is for one day.

Chair Vigliotti asked how many people in attendance and security. Mr. Buchanan stated that will fluctuate throughout the event and that he plans to obtain off duty police officer and EMS will be on site.

Upon a roll vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day entertainment license.

*List of Exhibits: Application for one day entertainment license received and dated received and dated March 26, 2024.*

**3. St. Joseph & St Stephen Parish, 10 Dupont Street  
a. Request for one day liquor license**

- **Saturday-June 22, 2024-4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.**

**b. Request for one day entertainment license for recorded music, DJ**

- **Saturday-June 22, 2024-4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.**

Edward Bourguault appeared upon behalf of the applications. He stated that this is the annual Brazilian Festival at the church, and they will hire two police officers. Event will be in the hall and the church grounds.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day liquor license and one day entertainment license.

*List of Exhibits:*

*A: Application for one day liquor license received and dated April 8, 2024.*

*B. Application for one day entertainment license received and dated April 8, 2024.*

**4. Christian Stone, 346 Shrewsbury Street  
Request for one day liquor license**

- **Tuesday, June 18, 2024 -5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, June 29, 2024-11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

Christian Stone appeared upon behalf of the applications. Mr. Stone stated that the June 18 is the annual Taste of Shrewsbury Street event, and they block off the parking lot for that event and 30-40 people go in and out at a time.

Chair Vigliotti asked if any concerns with the event. Sgt. Needham stated that police are already in the area of the event, and they check the establishments.

Mr. Stone stated that the June 29, 2024, meeting is their annual anniversary party for the establishment and same as other event they block the parking lot.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day liquor licenses.

*List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated March 26, 2024.*

**5. Ecotarium, 222 Harrington Way  
Request for one day liquor license**

- **Tuesday, April 30, 2024-6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday, May 5, 2025-6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.**

Kaitlin Williams, participating remotely, stated that April 30, is for the Girl Scout of American 40 guests maximum. The May 5 is a senior gala and 300 or more people, and they will have WPI police presence and additional Ecotarium staff will be at the event.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day entertainment licenses.

*List of Exhibits: Application for one day entertainment license received and dated April 18, 2024.*

**6. Oktoberfest, 222 Harrington Way  
Request for one day entertainment license for live music**

- **Friday, September 27, 2024-5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**

Kaitlin Williams, participating remotely, stated that they hope to event this event out on the dial plaza. She estimated they will have around 200 people.

Chair Vigliotti asked about security. Ms. Williams stated that the have security and they usually hire a police detail if they think there will be a lot of traffic at the event.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day entertainment licenses.

*List of Exhibits: Application for one day entertainment license received and dated April 18, 2024*

7. **A Night at the Museum, 222 Harrington Way**  
**Request for one day entertainment license for live music**
- **Saturday, May 18, 2024-6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.**

Kaitlin Williams, participating remotely, stated that is the Ecotarium Annual Gala and it is held indoor.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day entertainment licenses.

*List of Exhibits: Application for one day entertainment license received and dated April 18, 2024*

8. **Jazz on the Sundial, 222 Harrington Way**  
**Request for one day entertainment license for live music**
- **Friday-June 14, 2024-5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**
  - **Friday-July 12, 2024-5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**

Kaitlin Williams, participating remotely, stated that these events will be on the sundial plaza. Ms. Williams stated that they hope to have 400 people for the event. They always have police detail and security for event.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day entertainment licenses.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day entertainment license received and dated April 18, 2024

9. **Climate for Hope Concert, 222 Harrington Way**  
**Request for one day entertainment for live music**
- **Friday, May 3, 2024-6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**

Kaitlin Williams, participating remotely, stated that this is for an indoor concert, and they cap it at 80 people and security will be present.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day entertainment licenses.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day entertainment license received and dated April 18, 2024

### **Common Victualer Requests**

10. **FreshWay Pizza, 96 Water Street**
- **Sunday-Saturday-Noon-2:30 a.m.**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the May 1, 2024, License Commission meeting.

11. **Vitoria Meat Market-Worcester, 141 East Central Street**
- **Sunday-7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**
  - **Monday-Saturday-7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.**

William Clemente, participating remotely, stated that they are applying for new license as they are taking over the market.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the common victualer license.

*List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated April 16, 2024.*

**Alcohol/Entertainment Requests**

**12. Courthouse Brew, LLC dba Courthouse Brew Co, 3 Brussels Street**

- **Request for entertainment license for tv, radio, dancing by patrons, dancing by entertainers, recorded music, live music, Nintendo.**

Mark Galwick appeared upon behalf of the application.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the entertainment license.

*List of Exhibits: Application for entertainment license received and dated April 4, 2024.*

**13. Ruby Doo's, Inc., 160 Green Street-Worcester Public Market**

- **Request for transfer of restaurant all alcohol license from Atlantis Raw Bar, LLC**
- **Request for common victualer license**

Andrew Day, participating remotely, stated that he is taking over the location at 160 Green Street.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the transfer of the restaurant all alcohol license and common victualer license.

*List of Exhibits:*

*Exhibit A: Application for transfer of restaurant all alcohol license received and dated April 14, 2024.*

*Exhibit B: Application for common victualer license received and dated April 14, 2024.*

**14. El Coqui Liquor Store, Inc., 184 Chandler Street**

- **Request for transfer of stock**

Upon a motion made and duly seconded the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the May 16, 2024, License Commission meeting.

**15. Wormtown Brewery, LLC, 72 Shrewsbury Street**

- **Applicant seeking to pour both malt beverages and distilled spirits throughout the section 19C(n) farmer brewery pouring permit premises (approximately 8,750 SF) and Section 19E(0) farmer-distillery pouring permit premises (480 SF).**

**16. Wormtown Brewery, LLC, 72 Shrewsbury Street**

- **Applicant is seeking to relocate the 50SF farmer-distillery on premises consumption area from the westerly portion of the property to the approximately 480 SF space within the easterly portion of the building.**

**17. Wormtown Brewery, LLC, 72 Shrewsbury Street**

- **Applicant is seeking: (i) to add 50 SF to its restaurant area, and (ii) to add the seasonal exterior beer garden for on premises consumption (approximately 1,700 SF)**

Items #15, #16, #17 were taken contemporaneously.

Attorney Mark Bornstein appeared upon behalf of the applications and reviewed the proposals.

Chair Vigliotti stated that the Commissioners had viewed the site prior to the meeting and only concern is on the outdoor patio extension to make sure there are barriers at each end and that there be a fence between the brewery and the parking area.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve items #15, #16, #17.

*List of Exhibits:*

- Exhibit A: Application to pour malt beverages and distilled spirits received and dated March 24, 2024.*
- Exhibit B: Application for alteration to relocate square footage on farmer-distillery license received and dated March 24, 2024.*
- Exhibit C: Application for alteration to add 50 SF to restaurant area and add seasonal exterior beer garden received and dated March 24, 2024.*

**18. Creed Lounge, Inc. 41 Pleasant Street**

- **Request for change of manager**

Attorney Dan Cotton and Calvin Paulino owner of Creed , Attorney David Rubin and Katherine Cruz appeared upon behalf of the application.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the change of manager.

*List of Exhibits: Application for change of manager received and dated April 16, 2024.*

**19. Lara Hookah Bar, Inc., 267 Lincoln Street**

- **Jukebox, tv, radio, dancing by patrons, dancing by entertainers, recorded music, live music, amplification system, play, moving picture show, floor show, theatrical exhibition, karaoke**

Misa Hamden provided translation services for Ahmed Handel. Also present was Saif Handhal.

Ahmed Handel stated that he was looking to expand his entertainment license. Currently he stated that the license has recorded music, amplification music and television. He stated that he will be removing the jukebox, moving picture show and theatrical exhibition and play from request.

Chair Vigliotti read two letters of objections to the proposal.

Mr. Handhal stated he had issue with objection stated in record that they can hear sound as the glass is soundproof and he doesn't think the letters are valid as nobody leaves establishment drunk and he has security and no police have been called to the establishment and he has TIPS certified bartenders.

Mr. Handhal stated that he is not the only establishment on Lincoln Street there is also a bar.

Mr. Handhal stated that he has spoken with Father John from the church, and he has no problem with the proposal.

Chair Vigliotti stated that the letters from neighbors. Mr. Handhal stated that he said there was doubt on the letters as his establishment soundproof.

Commissioner Cruz stated that the complaint from neighbors is not from the noise from inside, but it is when patrons leave, they are making noise and that is a serious concern as that does effect the people who live there.

Chair Vigliotti stated that the Commission is trying to address the concerns raised by neighbors.

The Commission and the applicant discussed what would be the hours for entertainment Sunday thru Thursday to 10:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday Midnight.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the entertainment license with hours of Monday through Thursday to 10:00 a.m. and Friday and Saturday to Midnight.

*List of Exhibits:*

*Exhibit A: Application for entertainment license received and dated April 19, 2024.*

*Exhibit B: Letter from Heather Tribosca, not dated, received in office on April 24, 2024.*

*Exhibit C: Letter from Sam Ontenga, not dated, received in office on April 24, 2024.*

**Retail Marijuana**

**20. Mayflower Medicinals, Inc., 645 Park Avenue**

- **Request to amend hours to Sunday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.**

Philip Paquet, participating remotely, stated he was requested to amend the hours of the premises.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the amended hours.

*List of Exhibits: Letter requested to amend hours received electronically April 3, 2024.*

**Bottle Service**

**21. Creed Lounge, Inc, 41 Pleasant Street**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application of the May 16, 2024, in order for the Commission to have opportunity to view the premises.

**22. Lara Hookah Bar, Inc., 267 Lincoln Street**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application of the April 25, 2024, in order for the Commission to have opportunity to view the premises.

**Cessation of Business hearings**

**23. SC Worcester, LLC dba Shaking Crab, 554 Main Street**

No one appeared for the item.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to rescind the liquor license.

**24. McGrady Woodman, LLC, 162 Harding Street**

No one appeared for the item.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to rescind the liquor license.

**25. CSC&R District, LLC, 90 Harding Street**

No one appeared for the item.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to rescind the liquor license.

**Violation Hearing**

**26. Creed Lounge, Inc., 41 Pleasant Street  
Violation of Rules #14, #20, #37**

Attorney David Rubin along with Kelvin Paulino appeared to answer to the violation.

Sgt. Needham presented the following: on February 23, 2024, members of the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) and Worcester Police Alcohol Enforcement unit went to the Licensed Premises to conduct a compliance check.

At 11:15 p.m. members of the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission operating in an undercover capacity entered the Licensed Premises. The ABCC investigators were informed by a server that they could purchase a full bottle of alcohol for their table, which they were able to do.



During the compliance check the investigators noted that the front windows of the business had obstructed view of the interior. The Licensed Premises had been advised previously to remove the window obstruction.

Attorney Rubin asked if there was any advertising of the bottle service on Instagram. Sergeant Needham stated there was just post that just suggested bottle service.

Officer Harrington stated that there was no advertising of bottle service but there were posts that suggested service of bottle service and spirits and Mr. Paulino stated that during investigation that was just props used during the making of a video at premises where only staff was presented. Attorney Rubin stated that is just an interpretation.

A video was shown of incident.

Attorney Rubin asked Mr. Paulino what happened to the waitress showed in the video. Mr. Paulino stated that she was let go as the establishment doesn't do bottle service and she did as she came with a napkin and served the bottle. Commissioner Fisher asked where did the waitress come up with the pricing then. Mr. Paulino stated that he assumed she multiply by what the usual price is per unit and that is how she came up with a price.

Chair Vigliotti stated that in the video that was shown it shows the waitress brings a bottle to the table and drink is poured and leaves the bottle at table.

Officer Harrington stated that the receipt was a concern with the pricing.

Mr. Paulino stated that they did submit change of manager today.

Chair Vigliotti noted that there were previous violations on the record for this licensee.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 that the violation did occur.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to impose a two-day suspension a Thursday and a Friday. May 23, 24, 2024.

*List of Exhibits:*

*A. Police report dated March 7, 2024.*

*B. Video from Worcester Police body camera*

### **Communications**

**ABCC Hearing-JMAR LLC dba 107 Tap, 107 Water Street-No comments.**

### **Adjournment**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

