



MINUTES

Committee on General Services

Monday, June 12, 2017 @ 5:00 p.m.

City Council Conference Room, City Hall 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 5:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Tina Houghton, Chair

Councilmember Jody Washington, Vice Chair

Councilmember Carol Wood, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Billie O'Berry, Assistant City Attorney

Elaine Womboldt

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No public comment at this time.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 25, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Introduction and Set a Public Hearing on the Liquor License Ordinance (Community – Celebrations Banquets, LLC; RE: Change or Variance to Liquor Ordinance)

Ms. O'Berry noted the concerns were brought to their attention in 830.06 (g) and (h) which spoke to prohibiting the sale of alcohol where any form of nudity is shown in films, television slides or other electronic reproduction. There is an applicant, Celebration Cinemas that wants to sell beer and wine to be consumed on premise, which is similar to what they have permission for already at Studio C in Meridian Township. The Law department did speak to Meridian Township, and they have not had any concerns or violations at that site. Law chose to review the complete ordinance of Chapter 830. In doing so, they added "(E) that a person having a business conducted at that location by a manager or agent, unless such manager or agent possesses the same qualifications required for the license applicant". Also changed was on page 2 of the ordinance, line 12 from "State" to "Michigan", removal of (g) (h). On page 3 Law added (J) which spoke to "premises, unless the sale of beer, wine or spirits is shown to be

incidental and subordinate to other permitted business uses upon the site, such as, but not limited to, food sales, motel operations or recreational activities". Lastly, to address any items owing to the City, item (k) was amended to now include "special assessments, sewer or water charges that are delinquent for the premises".

Council Member Washington asked if pornography sites that sell movies, also sell alcohol. Ms. O'Berry stated those businesses would have to comply with State law. The City does not have the ability to deny a liquor license, just the State does. The City can only recommend denial.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 26, 2017 FOR AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 830. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Council Member Wood asked if there were any unintended consequences. Ms. O'Berry if a business than a theater comes along, they could question what the difference is between their movies and a movie theatre. Freedom of speech is broad, and the City has to be careful on what it regulates and what it does not regulate. She concluded that the way the ordinance was originally written there were considerations for Council only as guidelines, but it is not consistent with other municipalities.

Council Member Washington left the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Ms. Womboldt spoke in opposition to the changes, and asked that the Committee add items in the ordinance to allow guidance to the Council.

Council Member Wood asked that when the Celebration Cinema's come before the Committee to speak on their license, to address if their employees will have correct training on the overserving. Council Member Houghton also asked that Council Staff ask them to bring in a business plan. Ms. O'Berry noted she had been informed that the employees are trained to sell only one drink per individual, and there is the potential of a limit.

Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak, Office Manager,
Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee on June 22, 2017