

**FREEPORT LIQUOR COMMISSION
OPEN MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017**

A town hall-style meeting of the Freeport Liquor Commission was held at 5:00 p.m. on September 20, 2017, in Conference Room 1-A at City Hall, 314 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, Illinois.

Present were Commissioners: Mayor and Liquor Commissioner Jodi Miller, Commissioners Tim Mahoney and Don Parker.

Also present for the City of Freeport: City Clerk Dovie Anderson and City Legal Counsel Steve Cox, Esq.

Minutes

Attorney Cox distributed (1) City of Freeport Liquor Codes 608 and 806, (2) a listing of existing License Classifications and Summary and (2) a list of possible discussion topics: Possible Additions to Classifications, "V" License Restrictions and Transferability, Tastings, Parklet/Sidewalk Café/Zoning/Outdoor Sales, BYOB Establishments, BASSET, Temporary Licenses, Hours of Operation, Required Documentation, and Keg Reg.

He opened up the floor for discussion. The question arose regarding having a pour license in a gas station/convenience store with a gaming license. Other communities allow this and there is usually a separate area for gaming enclosed in a half-wall with glass and open liquor is kept behind the counter and distributed by the convenience store attendant. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of this in Freeport perhaps being tied to food service. It was also discussed how opening up this option may affect existing gaming parlors and food service/gaming establishments. The general consensus was that a community will support only a certain amount of gaming that will be shared among the establishments. The convenience store manager stated that they would be willing to pay the \$10,000 initial deposit. Some communities allow only one chain store to have a gaming license when there are two such establishments in a town.

Setting a cap as to the number of gaming licenses was discussed. Currently twenty-five (25) are allowed and all are spoken for. Concerns were considered ranging from (1) having no cap which may create a flood of gaming-only parlors to (2) a requirement of 35% or less of sales from gaming. Favor was given to establishments being required to pay the \$10,000 initial deposit. One historical caveat of a cap is that if a new establishment that typically includes gaming wants to come to Freeport, for instance a nationally-recognized food chain, the Codes needed to be rewritten to allow this. The re-write should provide more flexibility regarding setting a cap.

The owner of a new event center raised questions regarding a Class R license: the requirement of a meal being served with alcohol, fundraisers that serve only beer/wine/no food, and the requirement of ten (10) days' notice to the City for event dates. Currently, they will rely on caterers, but they hope to eventually have a chef's kitchen. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of a Class A or A-R license.

Parklet Zoning/Sidewalk Café/Liquor License and application was mentioned and the City will re-write Code to streamline this process. The question was raised regarding the availability of parklets outside of the downtown business area, especially when the Liquor License holder also owns the property. Attorney Cox felt that defining the premises helps from an insurance standpoint. There was general consensus that enforcement of ordinances and State law is on the property owner.

FREEPORT LIQUOR COMMISSION
OPEN MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

Attorney Cox pointed out that our Ordinances cover brew pubs, but micro distillers and winemakers should be added.

Attorney Cox explained that he will redraft the applicable Ordinances and submit to the Liquor Commission at a regularly scheduled meeting. Suggestions can be made. If necessary, another redraft can be written. When finalized, the Liquor Commission will give a recommendation to Council.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dovie L. Anderson
City Clerk