



**LIQUOR COMMISSION MINUTES
THURSDAY MAY 23, 2013
4:00 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Liquor Commissioner Barra called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE was led by Police Chief Greg Nelson

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call: Liquor Commissioner Laurie Barra, Police Chief Greg Nelson, Fire Chief Kurt Nelson, Commission Member Dale Vonderheide, and Commission Member Buster Hanley.

Absent: Deputy Liquor Commissioner Rick VonRohr

Also present: Attorney Sue Bosich – Corporation Counsel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Fire Chief Nelson to approve the Agenda for May 23, 2013, seconded by Commission Member Hanley. On roll call vote all present voted Aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Police Chief Nelson to approve the Liquor Commission Minutes of April 25, 2013, seconded by Commission Member Vonderheide. On roll call vote all present voted Aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion: Convenience Store/Gas station liquor sales

Input from Public:

Nick Filarski, 1521 Martha, owner of Broadway Liquors. Broadway Liquors has been in business since 1973, he has owned it the past 5 years. He is not in favor of the City letting convenience stores/gas stations sell alcohol. Does not believe this is in the best interest of Pekin as a whole. Keep the liquor code as is, do not change the current code. This will open up many other outlets to sell alcohol, what is the City's vision? Mr. Filarski stated if the Liquor Code changed, there could be up to 7 locations in the stretch between Parkway Drive and 14th Street. Could this become a public safety issue? In all there could be up to 21 more Class B liquor licenses for the city. Mr. Filarski stated Casey's would not go out of business from not selling alcohol, but other small businesses could if it was allowed.

Michael Gardner, 1025 Derby, owner of Ace Liquors North and South for 18 years. Mr. Gardner stated this would hurt his businesses. Mr. Gardner is against letting convenience stores/gas stations selling alcohol.

Diane Walters, 1800 N. 8th, Manager of Casey's. Ms. Walters appreciates Mr. Filarski and Mr. Gardner's concerns and understand where they are coming from. Why not change? Be more convenient for the customer. Competition will bring better prices and better customer service. We all have tobacco licenses and that has not dropped in sales? This would keep more alcohol sales in Pekin. Casey's have systems in place for carding

underage and also have the windows that they can see if something suspicious is going on in the parking lot. Casey's is not asking for hard liquor, just beer and wine.

Discussions from Staff:

Chief Greg Nelson did some research on other cities that allowed alcohol sales in convenience stores and gas stations. He had handouts.

Sue Bosich had the Peoria Liquor Code and stated they allow alcohol sales, but with strict restrictions.

Liquor Commissioner Barra stated that Casey's approached the Liquor Commission about the sale of alcohol in their store. Was informed by the Manager of Casey's that she stated Corporate won't let them update/expand the Deli area unless they can sell alcohol. This would need City Council approval and the Liquor Code would need to be amended to allow sales in convenience stores and/or gas stations.

Liquor Commissioner Barra asked if there is a motion to discuss further? No motion, motion failed.

Liquor Commission needs more time to think this over and take information into consideration. With vacations in June, our next Liquor Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19th at 4:00pm.

2% Food and Beverage Tax

Melanie, Wastewater Supervisor emailed Liquor Commission late returns on 5/23/13.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fire Chief Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commission Member Hanley.

Meeting adjourned 4:35 P.M.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Paula Gensel