

**Woburn License Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chamber
Thursday, April 28, 2022**

Voting Members present: Chairman Thomas Skeffington, Commissioner William Pappalardo, and Commissioner David Gilgun

Also present: Woburn Police Capt. John Murphy, liaison to the License Commission

Chairman Skeffington convened the regular meeting of the License Commission at 6 p.m.

1. **Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to take item #12 out of order from the posted agenda, all in favor; 3-0.** Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone representing any of the restaurants that have not filed their applications for renewal of their Common Victualer's licenses were in attendance. Romain Eugene, manager, and Stephen Ruggiero, district manager, Wendy's, 303 Montvale Avenue, raised their hands. Chairman Skeffington said out of all the people on the non-compliance list, Wendy's was the only one to show up. He thanked the Wendy's representatives for showing up. He said he has been following the email chain between Wendy's officials and Woburn Fire Dept. Lt. Joseph Foley and said it has been quite disturbing. He said Woburn is one of the only cities that makes renewing licenses simple. He said the city's inspectors are pro-active. He said to read Lt. Foley's email makes it seem Mr. Eugene was not very forthcoming. He said the commission has to be able to trust license holders. He said there is no need to lie. He asked Mr. Eugene if he thought when he went to Woburn Fire Dept. headquarters that Lt. Foley would not follow up to make sure what Mr. Eugene told him was true. He said the commission makes it easy for license holders to renew. He said not being truthful with Lt. Foley is not a good look for Wendy's. Commissioner Pappalardo said he does not understand what would drive this type of behavior. Mr. Ruggiero said this will not happen again. Commissioner Gilgun asked to hear Wendy's side of the story. Mr. Ruggiero said this won't happen again. He said Wendy's will be all over this. He said Wendy's wants to continue to be a good corporate neighbor. He said they will so their part to make sure this doesn't happen again. Capt. Murphy said the police department tries to tell everyone it is in the business of compliance. He said all the police ask for is cooperation. Mr. Ruggiero said Wendy's appreciates everything the police department does in the city. Chairman Skeffington said he thinks Wendy's representatives being here tonight is a huge step. He said Wendy's is owning up to its mistakes. He said transparency is great moving forward. He said the commission is not here to beat anyone up. Mr. Ruggiero again offered an apology. Chairman Skeffington advised all the people who have not filed their applications for renewal and did not show up tonight that the city may start taking punitive action, including fines. He said there are license holders out there who are thumbing their noses at the commission. Chairman Pappalardo asked if the late license holders were given enough time. Chairman Skeffington said Andrea's Pizza has not submitted an application for renewal in three years. He said if fines do not work, the commission will have to shut down these establishments. He said he is good with that.

- 2. S&L Liquors Inc., dba Dion's, 485 Main St., Woburn, MA, application for change of beneficial interest, change of ownership and transfer of stock for a package store license at 485 Main St., Woburn, MA:** Representing the petitioner were Attorney Thomas Miller, 28 State Street, Suite 802, Boston, MA; and Joseph and Peter Dion, S&L Liquors, 485 Main St., Woburn, MA. Attorney Miller said the applicant is seeking to transfer the business from father to son. He said there will be no operational changes. He said this is simply a paper transaction. He said Joseph has been doing this for half his life and he wants to step aside. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the application for change of beneficial interest, change of ownership, and transfer of stock; approved, 3-0. Joseph Dion said he bought the package store in 1980 and the city welcomed him with open arms. He said they put the community before profit. He said it is time for him to retire and thanked the commission. Chairman Skeffington said there has never been a problem at S&L Liquors. He wished Mr. Dion well in retirement.
- 3. C&L We Meet, Inc., dba Meet Us, 186 Cambridge Road, Woburn, MA 01801, relative to an application for change of officers/directors/LLC manager, change of stock interest, change of hours, and change of manager for an all-alcohol restaurant license at 186 Cambridge Road, Woburn, MA:** Clerk said the applicant has also filed for an entertainment license which can be considered by the commission as there is no ABCC approval required. Representing the applicant were Attorney Joseph Tarby and Michelle Chen, the proposed manager of Meet Us. Attorney Tarby said Meet Us took over for the former Great Mandarin and has since been by Ms. Chen and her business partner, Yin Ling. Attorney Tarby said Ms. Ling became a mother and wants to retire from the restaurant business. He said Ms. Chen will purchase Ms. Ling's interests in the restaurant and will thus own 100 percent of the stock. He said the applicant is also seeking change of hours to open at 10 a.m. on Sunday to serve brunch, as allowed under Mass. General Laws. He said the entertainment license is being sought so the restaurant can offer Karaoke from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., along with a juke box. He said Ms. Chen will take over 100 percent of the business. He said Ms. Chen has 10 years of experience in the restaurant and liquor service industry. Chairman Skeffington asked if the floor plan is being altered. Attorney Tarby said there will be no changes to the floor plan. Commissioner Pappalardo asked what kind of entertainment will be offered. Attorney Tarby said Karaoke will be offered. Commissioner Gilgun said the paperwork indicates Ms. Chen signed a promissory note that Ms. Ling will be due \$72,500 in July and asked if Ms. Ling will still be involved in the business until then. Attorney Tarby said the proposed changes to the business will go into effect upon approval by the ABCC. Capt. Murphy said he does not remember the last call that emanated from Meet Us or the Great Mandarin. Chairman Skeffington said the reviews of Meet Us have been very good so far. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the application for change of officers/directors/LLC manager, change of stock interest, change of hours, and change of manager, as well as an entertainment license; approved, 3-0.

- 4. Jake & Joe's Sports Grille, 230 Mishawum Road, Woburn, MA, application for extended hours for a UFC event on Saturday, May 7, 2022:** Representing the applicant was Brian Guglielmo, manager, Jake & Joe's Sports Grille, 230 Mishawum Road, Woburn, MA. Mr. Guglielmo said the event will follow the usual protocols: closure of the premises by 1:30 a.m. or the end of the fight card, last call at 12:30 p.m., all drinks off the table by 1 a.m. and service of non-alcoholic beverages in plastic cups. Commissioner Pappalardo said Jake & Joe's usually submits a request for more events. Mr. Guglielmo said he is only requesting extended hours for one event at this time. He said he may come in with a request for more events during the summer. Capt. Murphy said Jake & Joe's has been scrupulous with attention to detail during these events. Chairman Skeffington said Jake & Joe's does a good job with these events. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the request for extended hours on May 7, 2022; approved, 3-0.
- 5. The Chateau Restaurant of Woburn, Inc., 311 Mishawum Road, Woburn, MA, application for an entertainment license:** Representing the Chateau Restaurant of Woburn, Inc. was Derek Nocera, regional manager, 195 School St., Waltham, MA. Chairman Skeffington asked if the Chateau will be offering televisions and music as entertainment. Mr. Nocera said that is correct. Chairman Skeffington asked if there will be any bands. Mr. Nocera said there will never be live bands. He said there will be recorded music and televisions only. Chairman Skeffington asked how the restaurant is doing since it opened. Mr. Nocera said business is a little slow. He said they are increasing the market and they expect business to pick up. Chairman Skeffington said he hopes the restaurant does well. Commissioner Pappalardo asked if there will be live entertainment. Mr. Nocera said there will only be live music through the speakers. Commissioner Gilgun said televisions should require an entertainment license. He said if the Chateau opts to use the portable gaming and ordering devices that other restaurants have used, the city charges \$100 per device as part of an amusement license. Mr. Nocera said the Chateau does not use those devices. Commissioner Gilgun said he does not want the Chateau to start off on the wrong foot. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the entertainment license; approved, 3-0.
- 6. Lord Hobo Brewing Co., 5 Draper St., application for a special 1-day liquor license for a road race on Sunday, June 19, 2022, from 11 a.m. -3 p.m.:** Representing Lord Hobo Brewing Co. was Kate Ballinger, 5 Draper St., Woburn, MA. Chairman Skeffington asked Ms. Ballinger to tell the commission about the details of the road race. Ms. Ballinger said the race will start and end at the brewery. She said the distance is less than four miles. She said the race should be over pretty quickly. She said there will be a band in the parking lot. She said the band will not be disruptive to any of the neighboring residents. Chairman Skeffington said Lord Hobo has to be cognizant of the neighbors. He asked if all the proceeds will be donated to the Greater Boston Food Bank. Ms. Ballinger said 50 percent of the proceeds will be donated and the other 50 percent will go toward

the health of the business. She said the cost of running a road race is fairly exorbitant. Chairman Skeffington said the commission cannot waive the \$100 fee if the event is not entirely non-profit. Commissioner Pappalardo asked how long the race is. Ms. Ballinger said the race is 6.17 kilometers, or just under four miles. Capt. Murphy said he will meet with Lord Hobo prior to the race to go over the logistics. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day license upon submission of the \$100 fee; approved, 3-0.

- 7. Irish American Club of Woburn, 147 Main St., application for a special 1-day liquor license for a cornhole tournament on Saturday, May 14, 2022, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (rain date May 21, 2022):** Representing the Irish American Club of Woburn was Brian Kelley, 147 Main St., Woburn. Mr. Kelley said the Irish American Club holds charitable events two times a year. He said the proceeds from the cornhole tournament will benefit local charities and some of the club's members. Chairman Skeffington said it is good to see the Irish American running events like this after a long layoff due to Covid-19. Commissioner Pappalardo said this event is a fine operation. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. Charles Viola, Ward 7 Councilor, said the Irish American Club does a great job with events like these. He said the Irish American Club is a great neighbor and said he would appreciate the commission's favorable consideration of the license application. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day license and waive the application fee; approved, 3-0.
- 8. Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 70 Montvale Avenue, application for a special 1-day liquor license for a paint night on Saturday, May 14, 2022, from 4-10 p.m.:** Representing the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church was Taki Lambropoulos, 70 Montvale Avenue, Woburn, MA. Mr. Lambropoulos said the church is holding a fundraising event to pay some bills. Capt. Murphy said events at the Greek Church have always been run professionally. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. Jeffrey Dillon, Ward 3 Councilor, said the Greek Church's reputation speaks for itself. He said the church does great work and requested passage of the application. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day license and waive the application fee; approved, 3-0.
- 9. Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 70 Montvale Avenue, application for a special 1-day liquor license for a comedy show on Saturday, June 11, 2022, from 6-11 p.m.:** Representing the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church was Taki Lambropoulos, 70 Montvale Avenue, Woburn, MA. Mr. Lambropoulos said this event is another fundraiser for the church. He said he would appreciate the same consideration as the last application. He said everyone is welcome to attend the event. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the application. Jeffrey Dillon, Ward 3 Councilor, said the church's reputation is wonderful and requested passage of the special 1-day license. Motion made

by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day license and waive the application fee; approved, 3-0.

10. St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 8 Myrtle St., application for a special 1-day liquor license for a festival on Saturday, June 4, 2022, from 5-11 p.m.: Representing the applicant were Fr. Raphael Pinto and Renata Alves, both of St. Charles Borromeo Parish. Mr. Alves said the parish is seeking a special 1-day liquor license for a festival on June 4. She said the event will be held in the parking lot of the rectory. She said the funds that are raised will go toward the church. She said this is a non-profit event. She said this event was not held last year due to Covid. Chairman Skeffington said this event was very successful two years ago. He asked if the alcohol is being delivered the day of the event. Ms. Alves answered affirmatively. Chairman Skeffington said if the alcohol was being delivered the night before the event, the commission would amend the license for both days. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the board in regard to the petition. Jeffrey Dillon, Ward 3 Councilor, said St. Charles Parish does great work with the community. He said there have been no problems at previous events like this. He requested approval of the special 1-day license. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day license and waive the application fee; approved, 3-0.

11. Approval of meeting minutes from March 17, 2022: Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2022, and April 14, 2022; approved, 3-0.

12. Any other matters that may be legally before the Commission: Chairman Skeffington said he would like to notify license holders about compliance checks. Capt. Murphy said the commission can certainly request compliance checks, but his advice is if any member of the commission sees something, he should call police. He said police are trained to intervene in disputes. He said if a member of the commission calls police, they will start an investigation. He said there is a process that needs to be done properly. Commissioner Gilgun said the process is comprehensive. Capt. Murphy said the police need to make sure the process is followed and done professionally. He said if a member sees something that requires enforcement, the member should call right away and let police know he is a member of the License Commission. He said confronting people at a scene can make them angry, especially if there is alcohol involved. Chairman Skeffington said he wants to make sure the commissioners are covered, in case, for example, he and Commissioner Pappalardo are in an establishment together. He said as long as compliance checks are advertised, members of the commission can be there. Capt. Murphy reiterated the best option is to call 911, and the police will investigate. He said there have been instances when people order a Coke and go into the bathroom and put nips into the Coke. He said there are sometimes situations where there is more than meets the eye. Chairman Skeffington said by no means does he want to start policing. Capt. Murphy said there are mechanisms in place. He said the best thing to do is call 911 and inform police. Commissioner Gilgun said there is a very fine line. Capt. Murphy said everything involving liquor can have a criminal complaint, with arrestable offenses. He said the commission is an extension of government and liquor is always criminal.

Commissioner Gilgun asked if the commission needs to advertise compliance checks. Capt. Murphy said the purpose of advertising is letting the public know there will be compliance checks. He said there are policies the department has to follow. Chairman Skeffington asked if the police can help with enforcement of violations to a common victualer's license. Capt. Murphy said any violations involving a common victualer's license are civil. He said there are state laws under MGL Ch. 140 Section 9 that allow the commission to levy fines. Commissioner Gilgun said the laws for violations involving a common victualer's license don't have much teeth. Capt. Murphy said there may be consequences if the commission goes to the full measure of the law. Chairman Skeffington said restaurants without licenses are operating illegally. Capt. Murphy said there is no provision for the police department to revoke a common victualer's license. He said there is a civil process. Chairman Skeffington said there are restaurants in the city that have not renewed their common victualer's licenses for a year or two. He said the threat of a fine may not be enough. He asked if the commission can eventually revoke a license. Capt. Murphy said MGL Ch. 140 address those circumstances. Chairman Skeffington said the commission backed off the common victualer's license renewals two years ago because of Covid-19.

13. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to adjourn; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

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Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees