

**MINUTES FOR  
LIQUOR AUTHORITY MEETING**

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO  
7500 West 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Municipal Building**

**February 23, 2017**

Chair Nazareus called the Liquor Authority Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Liquor Authority Members present:

Anthony Davia  
Robert Alldredge  
John Miks  
Elizabeth Nazareus  
Bruce McIntyre  
Paul Shaver

Liquor Authority Members Absent: Carolyn Peterson, Claudia Worth

Also present: Deputy City Clerk Robin Eaton; Detective Chris Krieger, Officer Steve Berkowitz and Attorney Joe Rivera.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF January 26,2017**

**Motion** by for approval of the minutes of January 26, 2017; seconded by Board Member Miks, seconded by Board Member Shaver; carried 5-1

**Item 1.** Request for Show Cause Hearing for Big Willies Saloon and Grill Night Club, 11221 West 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Wheat Ridge, Colorado

Deputy Clerk Eaton introduced the staff report:

The City Clerk's office has received a final version for a transfer application on 1/20/17 and explains that the applicant has taken over the existing building located at 11221 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. The first contact from the applicant setting up an appointment with the clerk's office was in mid-December, with the packet being incomplete. The next scheduled appointment on 12/30 was not kept by the applicant, but the Landlord Francesca Chrisp and her father Max Chrisp did appear. The owner Gina Driscoll had been told on repeated dates that they are not to be open, and or selling alcohol at this establishment as there is no business license or Temporary Liquor Permit issued to them. There was however, a previous valid liquor license issued to dba Big Willies and in conversation

with the applicant, it was disclosed of an agreement between the two, to allow the use of the Big Willie liquor license, while the application was being processed. This seems to have been ongoing since late October of 2016.

Detective Krieger states how the WRPD had went into the bar on numerous occasions and found violations of gambling, sale without a license and gambling as well. The unreported Manager Josh Vossle, was found to have felony convictions for Criminal Impersonation, a misdemeanor for Theft and a restraining order that does not allow him to possess alcohol. He was representing himself as the owner in a variety of electronic postings and had not reported himself as the new manager, as required by law. Illegal card gambling and a gambling machine were on the premises and they were told that the machine was to be removed but upon further check, it was still plugged in. A ticket was also issued by Officer Berkowitz was issued to the establishment. Max Chrisp was said to be the owner by Josh and ownership by Gina Driscoll is still in question and the bar is not in control of Francesca Chrisp.

Officer Berkowitz described the quarter machine used in the gambling as a slot machine by all purposes. Also being requested from them by the PD, on two separate occasions, are all receipts from the establishment, showing where they have bought their liquor, paid the electric bills, etc. Officer Berkowitz states that these are the most charges he's seen in 36 years of doing Liquor. He speaks of the gambling issues alone at the bar, being a felony.

Detective Krieger states that the reports of them buying their alcohol from Republic Nation and Southern wine are unsubstantiated, with the State Liquor Enforcement confirming that directly from the Wholesalers, there have been no invoices since 2015. Based on the facts that it is a blatant disregard for all rules and requests, it was thought best to bring it in front of the Authority.

Chair Nazareus asks for any questions.

Member Miks asks for confirmation on who the Transfer application has been submitted for.

Detective Krieger affirms that is between the Individuals of Francesca Chrisp and Gina Driscoll, as Officer of the applying entity.

Chair Nazareus asks if Max Chrisp is the owner of the property and if there is a current liquor license.

Deputy Clerk Eaton responds that the property is owned by Francesca Chrisp, the member of SG Ventures LLC, who purchased the property when she applied for a Corporate Report of Changes a few years ago and yes she holds a current liquor license; set to expire in October of 2017 and that Max Chris is her father.

Detective Krieger adds that the new Lease has an upfront amount of Fifty-Thousand dollars and then fifty-nine hundred monthly after the first three months.

Member Shaver asks if there has been any actual monies paid toward the lease or application.

Deputy Clerk Eaton responds that no monies have been paid on the lease by the applicant due to Code violations on the building itself. Ms. Driscoll (Gina) has refused to pay due to Francesca calling her own people into fix it and not through Ms. Driscoll as required by the terms of the lease.

Member Davia asks if the State Liquor Division is doing anything about the establishment.

Deputy Clerk responds that not at this time; from a meeting that the City and PD held with the LED, they are taking a wait and see look at it and would depend on if we request their help. In addition, there was a City Clerk's office request to modify their premises due to a lease being signed by another entity running a business out of the kitchen area.

Member Shaver asks the City Attorney for input on these concerns with the possible violations.

City Attorney Joseph Rivera asks that the affidavit be reviewed carefully and then move for a show cause hearing with a modification to the affidavit, to seek permission to add the related violations for the State liquor Code.

Member Aldredge asks for a white board that would show the ownership or proposed ownership of the establishment or who is entitled to it, so that there is less confusion and Attorney Rivera agrees to it.

**Motion** by Member Miks that a Notice of Hearing and Order to Show Cause be prepared by the City Attorney and executed by the Chair and Deputy City Clerk and be issued to the owner of Big Willies Saloon and Grill Night Club, 11221 West 44th Avenue, Wheat Ridge, Colorado, based on allegations contained in the attached Notice of Alleged Liquor Code Violation, seconded by Member Shaver. The hearing is scheduled for Thursday March 9,, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Seconded by Member Shaver, carried 6-0

**Motion** by Member Miks to add liquor violations that correspond to State regulations to the Show Cause summons, seconded by Member Shaver, motion carries 6-0

Deputy Clerk Eaton asks if the Summary Suspension is to be included with the Show Cause hearing.

Attorney Rivera requests to move with the Show Cause hearing, unless new information is produced that they have been selling liquor and then possibly revisit the Suspension.

**CITY CLERK'S MATTERS**

Renewals for the Iron Rail, New Canton Restaurants are being processed and a Mgr. Change request was sent to the Club Corner establishment, which was met with some "negative" feedback from the owner.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS** - NONE

**POLICE DEPARTMENT MATTERS** - NONE

**LIQUOR AUTHORITY MEMBERS MATTERS** - NONE

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

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Robin Eaton, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED BY LIQUOR AUTHORITY ON March 9, 2017 BY A VOTE OF \_\_\_\_\_ TO  
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Elizabeth Nazarenius, Chair