



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

January 23, 2019
REPORT OF THE LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE

| Attendee Name | Title | Status | Arrived |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Mary Jo Rossetti | Chair | Absent | |
| Wilfred N. Mbah | Vice Chair | Present | |
| Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott | Ward Two Alderman | Present | |

Others present: John Long - City Clerk, Annie Connor - Legislative Liaison, Kim Wells - Clerk of Committees.

The meeting took place in the Committee Room and was called to order at 6:03 PM by Vice Chairman Mbah and adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Approval of the December 12, 2018 Minutes

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| RESULT: | ACCEPTED |
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Public Hearing - re: #207309

207309: New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Automotive Transport Service, 40 Joy St, 15 cars outside, 9 inside.

Robert Sousa, who has owned the business for 40 years, is applying for a license under a name change upon retirement of partner. Alderman Scott noted that this is an existing business with no complaints, which has been in place for 89 years, and as such, approval is recommended.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED |
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Public Hearing - re: #207311

207311: Amending Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Master Used Cars, 121 Prospect St, to increase operating hours Monday through Friday to 8PM, and Saturday to 6PM.

Peterson Frederico, owner, noted that his business has been in place for 20 years and that he previously lost business for Saturday hours and wants to get the ability to extend hours back.

Lisa White, a neighbor who lives directly across the street, commented that she believes that the hours were cut back due to violations. She also thinks there are more cars in the lot than allowed. She

noted further that there are issues with the sidewalks not getting shoveled and that it is difficult for residents to park on their own street.

Mr. Federico responded that he has shoveled.

Mary Mareira, a neighbor who lives diagonally across from the garage, added that the noise is a lot and personal cars should be in the lot rather than on the street. She also commented that employees sometimes park on the sidewalk which is dangerous.

John Long, Clerk, received two emails on the matter from Ms. White stating her objection to extended hours. He also shared one email from neighbor Leroy Hoskins, who stated that the garage has been a good neighbor and he has no objections.

Alderman Scott added that he received an additional email from Mr. Viera, who feels that extended hours will exacerbate traffic and parking issues. Alderman Scott reviewed hours of other garages in the City and his list shows that almost all are 8am-6pm/8am-2pm on Saturdays, which is consistent with the hours now allowed.

Consistent with the wishes of the neighbors and the hours of other similar business throughout the City, Alderman Scott recommended denying the request.

Vice Chair Mbah noted that the owner is free to re-submit his request after building relationships and consensus among neighbors.

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| RESULT: | NOT APPROVED |
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206817: Amending Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Master Used Cars, 121 Prospect St, increasing vehicles outside from 23 to 26, and extending hours Mon-Fri to 7:30PM and Sat to 5:30PM.

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| RESULT: | PLACED ON FILE |
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205262: Jennifer Shepherd submitting comments re: Master Used Cars, 121 Prospect St

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| RESULT: | PLACED ON FILE |
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205979: New Extended Operating Hours License, Lucky Strike, 325 Revolution Dr, staying open in-store with no alcohol service until 2AM daily.

Michael Brangwynne, Attorney for Lucky Strike, pointed out that the License Commission has already approved an entertainment license extension from 1am until 2am. He noted that alcohol would not be served after 1am.

Barry Birks, Regional Director for Lucky Strike, added that they would not allow admittance after 1am, the extended hours would be for current guests to allow them to finish playing games they have already paid for. He also noted that they do have strict controls in place relative to alcohol service, including multiple managers on duty and trained staff. They are only looking for Friday and Saturday evenings, not every day. He mentioned that the extended hours could help spread out the quantity of patrons exiting the establishment and added that the owners have been operating in the Boston area for 30 years and are careful not to be a concern to neighbors.

Vice Chair Mbah noted that he has not heard from the Alderman of the Ward that Lucky Strike operates in (Alderman McLaughlin).

Alderman Scott stated that since the License Commission has approved and the business has had no complaints, he is recommending approval.

Mr. Long noted that the original application was for Sunday through Saturday and also did not include the condition about not admitting new patrons.

Mr. Burke added that he has had conversations with Alderman McLaughlin, who he believes is supportive of the extension. Also, he would like to avoid having to apply for one-day extensions for holidays if the license is amended only for Friday and Saturday.

Alderman Scott would like to amend to include a restriction on new admittance, but is ok with seven days per week.

Vice Chair Mbah noted that the license can be reevaluated when it is renewed and suggested approval as written, without the additional conditions mentioned.

Following Vice Chair Mbah's comments, Alderman Scott withdrew his amendment and moved to approve the application as submitted.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED |
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207222: New Outdoor Seating License, Tasting Counter, 14 Tyler St, placing an A-Frame sign at the corner of Somerville Ave and Properzi Way, and at the corner of Properzi Way and Tyler St.

Jacki Morris, Marketing at Tasting Counter and Diana Ldi, Asst. General Manager at Tasting Counter shared that Tasting Counter was started as a tasting menu requiring a ticket purchase, but now has an a la carte wine bar, and wants to advertise that option to encourage walk-in traffic, and as such, they want to put two foldable sandwich boards outside.

Alderman Scott noted that there is plenty of space for a sign and it would be useful as the business can be difficult to find. He moved to approve the application.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED |
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207148: Submitted by Cambridge Network Solutions to install 119 feet of conduit in Medford St at Walnut St, from the communications manhole near 299 Medford Street to the communications manhole in the sidewalk at the intersection of the two streets.

There are some changes to the application and the administration would like more time to respond.

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| RESULT: | KEPT IN COMMITTEE |
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206864: That the Administration report to this Board, any instances of businesses found guilty of wage theft by the Attorney General's Office, and what action was taken in accordance with our wage theft ordinance.

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| RESULT: | KEPT IN COMMITTEE |
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206989: New Lodging House License, Walnut Hill Properties, 97 Curtis St, 6 residents.

The applicant has withdrawn the application.

RESULT:

WITHDRAWN

Handouts:

- Comments (with 207311)
- Comments 2 (with 207311)