



Licensing Board
CITY OF WATERTOWN
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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Watertown, Massachusetts 02472
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BOARD MEMBERS

DONNA B. DOUCETTE
SANDRA KASABIAN HOFFMAN
JOHN LABADINI

ALTERNATE MEMBER
JIM TSEKREKAS

MINUTES NOVEMBER 21, 2024

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: October 17, 2024

1. Special Licenses

- **Michael Patterson, Small Change Brewing Company, LLC Approved 3-0**
Change of Hours for Special All Alcohol Licenses
Mt. Auburn Cemetery Winter Solstice Event
580 Mt. Auburn Street, December 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 – 15, 17, 18, 20, 21

[Chair Doucette recused herself and Board member Labadini presided over the application, and Alternate Member Tsekrekas participated as a voting member, as he did for all the applications, in the absence of member Kasabian Hoffman.]

Emily Ann Vedes, a manager and co-owner of Small Change Brewing, appeared in support of the application. She noted that the Board had approved special licenses for the December 7 to 21 time period, with hours of service as 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for each day, but the event times are different for each day. Therefore, the applicant is requesting an extension, to 9:30 p.m., for each day. No other change is requested Alcohol service will still stop 30 minutes prior to the end of the event. The Building and Fire Departments had no comment. The Health Department and Zoning Enforcement Officer reported no objection. Sgt. Lewis stated that the Police Department had no objection to the change of hours, subject to the conditions in the department's written report. The Board voted to approve the extension to 9:30 p.m., subject to the conditions requested by the Police Department.

- **Gregory Cormier, Armenian Youth Federation** **Approved 3-0**
Special All Alcohol License
Armenian Cultural & Educational Center
47 Nichols Avenue
Fundraiser Dance, November 30, 2024

Gregory Cormier, chair of the Boston chapter of the Armenian Youth Federation, appeared in support of the application. Chair Doucette reviewed the elements of the application: dance event on Nov. 30, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; an expected 450 attendees; live music; advertised via

social media and flyers; ticket sales primarily in advance, and available at the door if any remaining; wristbands will be issued to identify age eligibility; a check-in with i.d. at entry point ; cash bar – using drink tickets; layout; alcohol storage area; 2 TIPS certifications; crowd manager certifications; ABCC-approved wholesaler receipt. Mr. Cormier stated there will be a live band. The alcoholic beverages will arrive on-site the day of the event, and be stored in the office prior to the event. The storage area will be locked at the end of the event and when access is not needed to re-stock the bars. Bracelets will be issued to indicated attendee age. Mr. Cormier estimated that 75% of attendees would be 21 and over and 25% under 21. He noted that the event will be open to families and youth as well. The Building and Health Departments had no comment on the application. The Fire Department and Zoning Enforcement Officer reported no objection. Sgt. Lewis stated that the Police Department had no objection to the granting of the license requested, subject to the conditions in the department's written report. The Board voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police Department.

- George Faggas, Hellenic Cultural Center
Special All Alcohol License
Hellenic Cultural Center, 25 Bigelow Avenue
Holiday Party (Beaverbrook STEP)
- Approved 3-0
 December 4, 2024

George Faggas appeared in support of the application. Chair Doucette reviewed the elements of the application: estimated attendance of 300 persons, 18 years of age and up; certificate of liability insurance; ABCC-approved wholesaler receipt; layout, TIPS and crowd manager certification; service by Maria's Catering. The Building and Fire Departments and Zoning Enforcement Officer had no comment on the application. The Health Department reported that its position was pending an application for a food service permit. Sgt. Lewis stated that the Police Department had no objection to the granting of the license requested, subject to the conditions in the department's written report. Chair Doucette advised Mr. Faggas that the Center should consult with the Health Department to determine if a food service permit is needed. The Board voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police Department.

- George Faggas, Hellenic Cultural Center
Special All Alcohol License
Hellenic Cultural Center, 25 Bigelow Avenue
Dance Party (Cretan Chapter of Boston)
- Approved 3-0
 December 7, 2024

George Faggas appeared in support of the application. Chair Doucette reviewed the elements of the application: 6:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.; bar closing at 11:30 p.m.; an estimated 270 attendees – all adults; certificate of liability insurance; ABCC-approved wholesaler receipt, TIPS and crowd manager certifications. Mr. Faggas stated there would be a 2-drink limit for any service/purchase transaction, and that the alcoholic beverages would be locked and taken away from the premises the day after the event. Chair Doucette advised that the applicant should consult the Health Department to determine if a food service permit is needed. The Building and Fire Departments and Zoning Enforcement Officer had no comment on the application. The Health Department

reported that its position was pending an application for a food service permit. Sgt. Lewis stated that the Police Department had no objection to the granting of the license requested, subject to the conditions in the department's written report. The Board voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police Department and Health Department approval, as applicable.

- Nicole L'Ecuyer Approved 3-0
One Day Wine and Malt License for *Character Extravaganza* Event with Beer and Wine Garden
130 Arsenal Yards Boulevard December 4, 2024
(rain date – December 5, 2024)

Nicole L'Ecuyer appeared in support of the application. Chair Doucette reviewed the elements of the application: event on the River Green area; 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; live music; wine and beer service; information flyer; map of event area; liability insurance; caterer's license; alcohol transportation and delivery permit. Ms. L'Ecuyer stated that this will be the second annual edition of this family event – a Christmas and holiday-themed event. Arsenal Yards will fence off the area as for prior beer garden events; there will be one entrance and exit. Identification will be checked at the bar, and a color-coded bracelet will be issued to signify eligibility for alcohol service. Beverages will be delivered by servers and then removed. Security staff will be on duty, and there will be a traffic manager. Arsenal Yards will encourage attendees to do food takeout from Arsenal Yards restaurants. In response to a question from the Board, Ms. L'Ecuyer stated there would be propane fire pits on the turf area. The Building, Fire and Health Departments and Zoning Enforcement Officer had no comment on the application. Sgt. Lewis stated that the Police Department had no objection to the granting of the license requested, subject to the conditions in the department's written report. The Board voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police Department.

2. Best Burger Watertown, LLC Approved 3-0
d/b/a Belle's Burgers
46 Arsenal Street
Change of d/b/a Name for All Alcohol Common Victualer License
3. Hanshari, Inc. Granted 3-0
d/b/a Natural Fruttiberri
127 Mt. Auburn Street
Common Victualer License

4. Ole Tapas, LLC Approved 3-0
d/b/a Olespana Whiskey & Tapas
643-649 Mt. Auburn Street
Alteration of Premises for All Alcohol Common Victualer License
5. Ole Tapas, LLC Granted 3-0
d/b/a Olespana Whiskey & Tapas
643-649 Mt. Auburn Street
Entertainment License

Start: 7:20PM
End: 8:36PM



Donna Doucette, Chair

Present: Donna Doucette, John Labadini, Jim Tsekrekas
Also Present: Watertown Police Sergeant Mark Lewis, Attorney David Doneski

Best Burger Watertown, LLC
d/b/a Belle's Burgers
46 Arsenal Street
Watertown, MA 02472

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the application of Best Burger Watertown, LLC d/b/a Belle's Burgers for approval of a change of d/b/a name for the exercise of its All Alcohol Common Victualer license at 46 Arsenal Street, from Wild Willy's to Belle's Burgers.

Jonathan Beatrice, operations manager, appeared in support of the application.

Mr. Beatrice stated that he had received all three abutter notice return receipts from the USPS. He explained that the LLC holding the license will remain the same, but is changing the d/b/a name. He stated that after 20 years of operation as Wild Willy's the new franchise owners presented a new proposal for the franchise arrangement, but the fee was so large it would have put the restaurant out of business. Mr. Beatrice noted that the LLC is still negotiating with the owner, but is able to do an independent restaurant. The interior will be decorated with Watertown historical items, and there will be an artist wall in concert with the Historical Society. Mr. Beatrice stated that on October 7 he had submitted a new d/b/a business certificate to the Town but was unaware that there was a need to apply to the Licensing Board for licensing approval. He added that when he received the Board's letter regarding operation under a new name without Board approval, he stopped selling beer and wine.

Mr. Beatrice confirmed that Peter Stahl is still a 100% owner of the LLC. He noted that he was negotiating an ownership interest with Mr. Stahl, but does not currently have an interest in the LLC.

Chair Doucette stated her appreciation that alcohol sales had been suspended until the Board's action on the application.

The Building and Fire Departments, and the Zoning Enforcement Officer had no comment on the application. The Health Department reported no objection.

Sgt. Lewis stated that the Police Department had no objection to the proposed name change, provided that the conditions stated below were imposed.

After hearing, the Licensing Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed change of d/b/a name to Belle's Burgers, subject to the following conditions:

1. The new d/b/a name shall be listed as: Belle's Burgers.
2. All conditions of the license shall remain in place.

Hanshari, LLC
d/b/a Natural Fruttiberri
1014 Pleasant Street, #37
Weymouth, MA 02189

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the application of Hanshari, LLC d/b/a Natural Fruttiberri for a common victualer license to be exercised at 127 Mt. Auburn Street.

Vedika Reddy and Sheetal Rani, managers of the LLC, appeared in support of the application.

Sheetal Rani stated that the application reflects a transfer from the previous owner of the Natural Fruttiberri business. The applicant is proposing seating at the ice cream shop premises. Vedika Reddy explained that the LLC just bought the existing business the previous month, and noted that the previous owner had outdoor seating. Attorney David Doneski, of City Attorney KP Law, commented that the outdoor seating proposed would be subject to other required City approvals because it would be situated in a public way/sidewalk area. He noted that the prior approval was probably through the City Manager's office, in connection with outdoor dining authorizations under the COVID 19 procedures authorized by the state.

The Building Department and Zoning Enforcement Officer reported no objection to the application. The Fire Department had no comment. The Health Department reported that a food permit had been issued.

Sgt. Lewis stated that the Police Department had no objection to the granting of the requested license, provided that the conditions stated below were imposed.

After hearing, the Licensing Board voted unanimously to grant a common victualer license, subject to the following conditions:

1. The hours of operation shall be 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday.
2. The seating capacity shall not exceed 5 persons, as shown on the plan submitted. Approval for seating is for five indoor seats. Provisional approval for five outdoor seats is granted, subject to verification to the Licensing Board of City authorization for placement of seating facilities on the sidewalk.
3. There shall be no alcoholic beverages on the premises.

Ole Tapas, LLC
d/b/a Olespana Whiskey & Tapas
643 – 649 Mount Auburn Street
Watertown, MA 02472

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the application of Ole Tapas, LLC d/b/a Olespana Whiskey & Tapas for approval of an alteration of its premises at 643 – 649 Mount Auburn Street, licensed for All Alcohol Common Victualer service, by the addition of outdoor seating.

Peter Pyne, manager of the LLC, appeared in support of the application.

Mr. Pyne stated that during the summer the restaurant struggles for business. He explained that it has eight parking spaces at the rear of the building and he would like to use those for outdoor seating. He presented a photograph to the Board with an annotation, and stated he is requesting to use two parking spaces. Mr. Pyne added that there is a use arrangement with CVS for use of the spaces, but the applicant did not currently have zoning approval of that arrangement for seating. He stated that he is working to figure out how to use the spaces for seating. He wants to have the outdoor seating as close to the building as possible, to cut down on the distance servers would need to travel and to allow for keeping an eye on patrons.

Chair Doucette read into the record a letter to the Board from LDM Watertown LLC, owner of the property at 631 Mt. Auburn Street which is leased to Citizens Bank. The letter stated there was no opposition in principle to the application, but there was a concern regarding increased risk of accidents in association with late-night operations and alcohol service and LDM Watertown's possible liability exposure. The letter requested that the Board ensure that the applicant has adequate liability insurance.

Mr. Pyne showed the Board a copy of the LLC's insurance via display on his cell phone. Board member Labadini commented that the applicant should check with its insurer regarding

scope of coverage and any premium increase for the additional premises area. Chair Doucette added that outdoor seating would change the description of the licensed premises, and therefore the insurance company may need to adjust the policy.

Mr. Pyne stated that 133 persons is full capacity; the kitchen cannot handle the higher number reflected in the occupancy certificate for the building. The present seating arrangement is for 111 persons.

The Building Department and the Zoning Enforcement Officer reported no objection. The Fire and Health Departments had no comment.

Sgt. Lewis stated that the Police Department had no objection to the proposed alteration of premises, provided that the conditions stated in items 1 and 3 below were imposed.

After hearing, the Licensing Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed alteration of premises, subject to the following conditions:

1. The licensed seating number shall be 230 indoor seats, and 24 additional seats outside, for a total of 254.
2. The outdoor seating approval is subject to verification of liability insurance for the exterior portion of the premises.
3. All conditions of the license shall remain in place.

Ole Tapas, LLC
d/b/a Olespana Whiskey & Tapas
643 – 649 Mount Auburn Street
Watertown, MA 02472

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the application of Ole Tapas, LLC d/b/a Olespana Whiskey & Tapas for an entertainment license for the premises at 643 – 649 Mount Auburn Street, licensed for All Alcohol Common Victualer service.

Peter Pyne, manager of the LLC, appeared in support of the application.

Mr. Pyne stated that he is proposing various forms of entertainment, including singing and dancing lessons, and that the Police Department informed him he needed a license. He added that he wanted the restaurant to be part of the community and offer more activities, noting that people ask him about offering dancing classes.

Chair Doucette asked if Mr. Pyne had a copy of the Licensing Board's regulation. When Mr. Pyne answered no, the chair stated he should request one from the City Clerk's office.

Mr. Pyne explained that he would like to offer activities such as karaoke, trivia, and dance lessons, for which two professors from MIT would be the instructors. He stated there was no need to remove tables during times entertainment is offered, since there is an open area adjacent to the side of the bar, and the restaurant has a larger seating capacity than it is currently using.

The Fire and Health Departments had no comment on the application. The Building Department and Zoning Enforcement Officer reported no objection.

Sgt. Lewis stated that the Police Department had no objection to the granting of the entertainment license, provided that the conditions stated below were imposed.

After hearing, the Licensing Board voted unanimously to grant a 6-day entertainment license (Monday through Saturday), subject to the following conditions:

1. The number of musicians shall be limited to three, one of which may be a singer
2. Instruments shall be limited to a piano, string and reed.
3. The space to be used for entertainment shall be limited to the area of the premises shown on the plan submitted.
4. The hours of exercise for the license shall be Monday through Friday, 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., and Saturday 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
5. A full-service menu and kitchen hours must be maintained when entertainment is offered.