



## Liquor Advisory Board December 3, 2015

The Carbondale Liquor Advisory Board held a meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2015, in Room 103 of the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 South Illinois Avenue. In the absence of Chairman Mark Robinson and Vice-Chair John Mills, the Board had to appoint a member of the Liquor Advisory Board to preside over the meeting.

David Cisco moved, Tasis Karayiannis seconded for Don Monty to preside over the meeting in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair

VOTE: All voted aye. Motion declared carried.

Don Monty called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following-named members of the Board present/absent:

### 1. Roll Call

Present: Steve Payne, David Cisco, Ryan Gougis, Tasis Karayiannis and Donald Monty

Absent: John Mills and Mark Robinson

A quorum was available to take action on the agenda items. City Staff present for the meeting included Deputy City Clerk Clinette Hayes, Assistant to the City Manager Alicia Burtley, and Fire Chief Ted Lomax.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Ryan Gougis moved, Tasis Karayiannis seconded, to approve the minutes from November 5, 2015.

VOTE: All voted aye. Motion declared carried.

### 3. Consideration of first quarter reports from the Police Department, Fire Department, and Building and Neighborhood Services for license year 2015-2016

No Discussion

David Cisco moved, Ryan Gougis seconded, to approve. VOTE: All voted aye. Motion declared carried.

### 4. Consideration of a request to transfer locations and renew a request for an expiring 180-day permit for Reel Lucky to operate a B3 liquor license (video gaming establishment with on-premises consumption of all alcoholic liquors) at 1224 West Main Street

Mr. Uffleman was not present at the meeting therefore no action was taken at this time. A motion was made to postpone this decision until the next Liquor Advisory Board meeting.

Tasis Karayiannis moved, Ryan Gougis seconded, to postpone a decision for Mr. Uffleman's request for Reel Lucky until the next meeting due to his absence. VOTE: All voted aye. Motion declared carried.

**5. Consideration of a request to renew an expiring 180-day permit for Best Western/Saluki Inn to operate with a D2 liquor license (on-premises consumption at a hotel/motel) at 801 North Giant City Road**

Chris Huber, General Manager of Best Western/Saluki Inn, was present to explain why a renewal is being requested. The Best Western/Saluki Inn has a vacant meeting room adjacent to hotel. The plan is to turn the meeting room into a lounge. The past couple of months have been very busy to the point that the remodeling project has come to a halt and will not be completed by the end of January. Now that the next few months will be a “slow time” they will begin the remodeling project. No changes have been made as far as plans. No questions from the Board. No questions from public. There was no further discussion.

Tasis Karayiannis moved, David Cisco seconded, to approve an extension for Best Western/Saluki Inn in order to continue construction. VOTE: All voted aye. Motion declared carried.

**6. Consideration of a transfer request for a C1 liquor license (package liquors-off-premises consumption only) from Pick & Son, Inc. to American Tap Liquors, LLC at 518 South Illinois Avenue**

The applicant, Srinivas Gundala, was present at the meeting. He is proposing to purchase Pick’s Liquors and obtain their liquor license. He will then transfer the license from 750 E. Grand Ave. to 518 S. Illinois Ave. which will help the loss of revenue in the downtown area by creating jobs and aid in the revitalization of downtown.

Several changes have been made to the plans of the building at 518 S. Illinois Ave. Clarification was needed for members of the board as to what exactly the purpose of the building is. It is now understood that the building will be a restaurant and a liquor store. It was also made clear that the applicant is purchasing Pick’s Liquors and moving it from its current location on East Grand Ave. to 518 S. Illinois Ave.

Questions/Comments from the Board:

The application indicated that Mr. Gundala has no prior experience in operation of a liquor establishment. [A BASSET course was taken and he passed the exam.] It was then asked if Mr. Gundala has any prior experience in operating any kind of retail business. [No.]

T. Karayiannis expressed concern about whether another liquor store downtown will help its revitalization. Building another liquor store so close to another will seem to be a step back than a step forward. There is nothing that Mr. Gundala is proposing that will make him stand out from the neighboring liquor store or any other liquor store in town. Where Pick’s Liquors is currently located is an area with a young population that will bring in better business. Mr. Gundala responded that having two liquor stores in the same area can work as it has for Pick’s Liquors and Pinch Penny for the past 30 years.

Questions/comments from the public:

Chandrakant Patel, 1075 E. Park St., owns and operates Old Towne Liquors and Blue Fish Liquors. Mr. Patel was present to oppose Mr. Gundala’s request. Mr. Patel noted that Mr. Gundala asked him if he would be willing to help run the new operation. Mr. Patel already has 3 established liquor stores in the area and would not be interested in assisting with another. He feels that Mr. Gundala’s lack of experience does not make him a good candidate to start a liquor establishment. His continually changing plan for his building reflects inexperience.

No questions for Mr. Patel.

Questions from the Board:

Is there anything substantially different from what you are going to do with your store that already exists at Old Towne as far as product? [Local wines and high-end spirits that will probably not be sold at Old Towne.]

Will you personally manage the business? [Yes. I will also make sure the staff passes the same education course].

You said you had \$100,000, is that all it is going to take to start this business? [The \$100,000 will just be for the liquor store.].

Will the liquor store be 1200 square feet? [Yes.] How many square feet are on the ground floor of the building? [The total will be 4300 square feet. It is 1200 for the liquor store. The rest is for the kitchen and the restaurant.]

How will the business be accessed? [There will be a Northeast entrance. As you enter, you turn left to the liquor store. Straight ahead will be the entrance to the restaurant]

Do you plan on selling liquor in the restaurant? [Yes.]

What kind of restaurant were you thinking about? [Fine Indian Dining.]

Will it be similar to or different from the restaurant that is already down the street? [What we experience here is not true Indian food. Chefs will come from India that will make this a real authentic Indian restaurant with Indian food cooked by Indian cooks.]

Discussion was had about how a package liquor store can cater alcoholic beverages for an off-site event. After the discussion it was determined that it is possible for a package liquor store would be able to cater.

Chris Huber, General Manager of Best Western/Saluki Inn commented that with the current project of revitalizing downtown, this is a perfect opportunity to set the tone with what the city wants to do. Trying to get more people besides students to utilize the downtown area is what the whole movement is about. A variety of cafes and retail shops are what draws a different crowd downtown.

Tasis Karayiannis moved, Ryan Gougis seconded, to deny the request based on Carbondale City Code 2-4-5.D.6 and 2-4-5.J. VOTE: All voted aye. Motion declared carried.

Recommendation to the Local Liquor Control Commission will be to deny the request at the next City Council meeting on December 22, 2015.

**7. Liquor Advisory Board Comments**

Next meeting is January 7, 2016.

**8. Citizens Comments**

No comments

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Clinette Hayes, Deputy City Clerk

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Date Approved