

TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of Public Meeting
April 8, 2024

The meeting of the Talbot County Board of Liquor License Commissioners was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024. Present were Chairman Jack M. Gottschalk, Commissioner Edward M. Bridges, Jr., Commissioner David A. Fike, Alternate Jacqueline O'Neil and Board Secretary Victoria E. Bradley.

OLD BUSINESS

- Upon motion by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, the minutes of the meeting of March 25, 2024, were unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

San Miguels Mexican Food, LLC – Application for a Class F-A liquor license (hotels/restaurants – on-sale, beer, wine and liquor) & Caterer's Endorsement

All those in attendance to testify in the matter were sworn in, (Applicant Jennifer Smith).

Chairman Gottschalk asked if the LLC for this application is the same as the LLC for Ms. Smith's other restaurant, The Gally. Ms. Smith testified that this was a new LLC for the new restaurant.

The applicant gave opening statements regarding the application and business plan for this location. Ms. Smith testified that she has been working on opening another restaurant in St. Michaels for a few years. Ms. Smith further testified that the restaurant will be for Mexican food and drinks and the location will be able to have around 15 tables inside and 4 outside.

Commissioner Bridges noted that he did not see the Fire Marshalls Inspection or the Health Department Permit. Ms. Smith testified that she is currently waiting for a final piece of equipment for her kitchen in order for the Fire Marshal and Health Department to do their final inspections. Ms. Smith further testified that she is anticipating the equipment to be delivered by April 15, 2024, and she will be able to schedule the final inspections shortly after.

Chairman Gottschalk asked when the business would be ready to open. Ms. Smith testified that May 1, 2024, is her target date if not sooner. Chairman Gottschalk asked what the intended hours of operations are. Ms. Smith testified that the hours will be from 11 am to 9 pm.

Chairman Gottschalk asked if the applicant has a copy of the County Code. Ms. Smith testified that she has a copy at her current restaurant and at the new location. Chairman Gottschalk asked what the applicant's policy is and will be for keeping track of employee's TIPS certifications. Ms. Smith testified that she has a copy of all certification cards and keeps an excel spreadsheet to keep track of all certification's expiration dates. Ms. Smith further testifies that she has a loyal and well-trained staff.

Chairman Gottschalk reminding the applicant about the regulations regarding swapping the inventory from one business to another. Ms. Smith testified that she is aware of the regulations and that both restaurants will be serving different types of alcohol to further prevent any transfer issues.

Chairman Gottschalk asked the applicant what policies she has in place for ID checks. Ms. Smith testified that she has a policy in place to check all ID's and has tools for staff to use such as; ID check book for out of state ID cards and licenses, a 21 year calendar at the register, and an APP that will scan ID cards to check for age and authenticity.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was made:

- Motion made by Commissioner Bridges, seconded by Commissioner Fike that the Borad approve the application of a Class F-A liquor license and a Caterer's Endorsement provided the applicant submits the completed Fire Marshalls Inspection and the Health Department Permit. Motion passed unanimously.

Liquor Inspector's Report

Inspector Gottschalk briefed the Board as to ongoing County liquor inspections. The Inspector testified that he recently had a TIPS class with a low number of attendees but is hopeful for more with one of his other classes coming up later. Inspector Gottschalk further testified that he has been made aware of a new course that has an online option for certification classes, the test is still taken in person to be compliant with the State of Maryland.

Inspector Gottschalk testified that there are no major violations that have occurred. However, he has received compliant about 1 location for serving minors alcohol and intends to conduct more inspections. Inspector Gottschalk further testified that he is currently trying to work with Talbot County Sheriff's office to acquire some new equipment to assist with his inspections and later add the cost to the Liquor Boards budget.

Old Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Board moved to adjourn.

- Upon motion by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, there being no further business to discuss, the Board voted unanimously to close the meeting at 10:45 a.m.