



NORTHAMPTON LICENSE COMMISSION

City Hall, Office of the Mayor
210 Main St., 2nd Floor
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 587-1212

COMMISSIONERS

Brian Campedelli, Chair
Natasha Yakovlev
Helen Kahn

Executive Assistant

Annie Lesko
alesko@northamptonma.gov

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Virtual Meeting

4:00 p.m.

The March 18, 2021, License Commission meeting will be held via remote participation.

Join Virtual Meeting

- **Video Conference:** <https://zoom.us/j/94631773425?pwd=QlkxSjg0S3JieWgwS1Z0aW9lQndoZz09>

OR

- **Telephone, call:** +1-929-436-2866, Meeting ID: 946 3177 3425, Password: 104424

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** by Commissioner Yakovlev at 4:01 p.m.
ROLL CALL - Commissioners Yakovlev, Campedelli and Kahn were all present.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING made by Commissioner Yakovlev
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
3. **PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR ALTERNATION OF LICENSED PREMISES**
Blue Paws, Inc. d/b/a JJ's Tavern
99 Main St., Florence
Application to include a permanent outdoor pavilion

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to open the public hearing at 4:01 p.m. Commissioner Kahn seconded and the public hearing was opened.

Roger Clark of 23 N. Maple St., Florence, stated the proposed pavilion will be abutting his back yard and would like to know if there is a limit to entertainment.

Shannon Daniels, also of 23 N. Maple St., stated she is concerned that the proposed alteration will turn into a music venue with outdoor dining going past 9 p.m. Ms. Daniels recounted instances from the past when JJ's customers wandered onto her property, including a gentleman who knocked on her tenets door looking to use a restroom and then proceeded to urinate on the front porch. Ms. Daniels also noted people park in her yard and the noise coming from JJ's is very loud. Ms. Daniels is concerned that with the permanent pavilion, the crowd will get rowdier than it already is and will extend into the late hours of the night, along with people fighting.

Commissioner Kahn asked what type of loudness Roger and Shannon are experiencing.

Shannon Daniels explained that the patrons are very loud and there is a lot of screaming and yelling. Shannon noted there should be a time limit.

Commissioner Kahn asked how the outdoor seating impacted Shannon last year.

Shannon Daniels stated it was very loud last year and on Friday nights there was music and in order to be able to hear the TV, she'd have to shut her windows. Shannon noted there was music at least once a week during the summer.

Commissioner Kahn asked Shannon what her primary concern was.

Shannon Daniels stated she's concerned about the music late at night, people wandering onto her property and sometimes picking vegetables, small parties in the back parking lot when JJ's closes, and being able to hear everything.

Commissioner Kahn asked Shannon if her experiences were exacerbated last year with the outdoor dining.

Shannon Daniels stated it was.

Commissioner Campedelli asked Shannon how long she has lived in her house.

Shannon Daniels and Roger Clark both stated they'd been living there for 19 years.

Commissioner Campedelli asked how long the outdoor music has been going on for.

Shannon Daniels stated the music started last summer and happened about once a week.

Jon Neumann, owner of JJ's Tavern, stated that last summer he had a tent outside over the outdoor dining area with music on Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m. Jon pointed out he never received any complaints from anyone. Jon also noted that the noise on the upper deck happened pre-covid when music was played inside, upstairs, and the people from the bands would open the doors to the deck and smoke. Jon stated he's not sure that will ever come back but if it does, he certainly wants to work with the neighbors. Jon pointed out that he's hoping to stop service at 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. the lights will be out.

Commissioner Kahn asked, now that restaurants don't have to stop serving at 9 p.m., if he'll continue to stop service at 9 p.m. or if he'll go later.

Jon Neumann stated he doesn't want to be open past 11 p.m. even if the Governor allows it. Jon pointed out that he doesn't have the staff, time or energy to be open any later than that.

Commissioner Yakovlev asked if JJ's has any sound mitigation.

Jon Neumann stated yes, inside the restaurant/bar.

Commissioner Yakovlev asked if Jon has put up any signage around his property to alert people of the new plans.

Jon Neumann stated he is happy to put up any signs that he has to.

Commissioner Yakovlev closed the public hearing at 4:16 p.m. Commissioner Kahn seconded and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Yakovlev stated her primary concern is the entertainment outside.

Jon Neumann stated he wants to be able to host acoustic performances and soloists (or duos) between 5 and 8 p.m. Jon noted that the music last summer never went past 8 p.m. and the comedy shows never went past 9 p.m. Jon is hoping that his entertainment license can be extended to the outdoor area to include entertainment on weekends to be shut down by 9 p.m. and outdoor table service to shut down by 10 p.m.

Commissioner Yakovlev advised Jon, if the music upstairs ever comes back, to make sure that the door is kept closed.

Jon Neumann stated he will absolutely make sure the door stays closed because the deck is high and above the tree line so the noise definitely carries.

Commissioner Campedelli asked Jon how many years he has been running JJ's Tavern and how many complaints he has gotten.

Jon Neumann stated he is going into his 8th year and has received one noise complaint because the noise was going through the windows. Jon stated that the following week he had new windows installed. Jon also offered his cell phone number to any neighbors that would like to be able to reach him at any time.

Commissioner Yakovlev asked what nights of the week Jon would like to have entertainment and comedy.

Jon Neumann stated it would only be Friday and Saturday nights but in the future he might have someone performing light jazz on Sunday mornings.

Commissioner Yakovlev pointed out that it's important to be a good neighbor and communicate with neighbors to try and avoid some of the past instances.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to approve the application for extension of licensed premises for Blue Paws, In., to include an outdoor pavilion with a restriction of ending alcohol service by 10 p.m. Monday through Sunday. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by roll call vote.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING ON-PREMISES OUTDOOR DINING EXPANSION APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC SPACES

- Rias Baixas, LLC d/b/a Ibiza Tapas, 7 Strong Ave.

Jeremy Werther was present for this application and stated he is essentially hoping to recreate last year's floor plan by blocking off the same amount of parking spaces in front of the restaurant and enclosing the area in the same fashion. Jeremy noted he plans to place three tables on the sidewalk abutting the restaurant and four tables in the parking spaces as noted on the plan submitted with the application.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved approval of the extension of premises for Rias Biaxas, LLC as shown on plan on file with the License Commission to include seven tables and 16 chairs,

cordoned off by jersey barriers to be placed by the city, to include the sidewalk in between limited to transportation of alcohol beverages only and contingent upon site plan approval by the DPW and the Health Department and a site inspection by the Building Department prior to operation. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

- Lanran, LLC d/b/a The Dirty Truth, 29 Main St.

Kyle Anderson was present for this application and noted his plans are the same as last year and hopes to place six tables in the street area to be cordoned off by the city, and two tables against the facade of the building. Kyle noted he will maintain walking paths for pedestrians and will be crossing the sidewalk with alcohol. Kyle also pointed out that everything went smoothly last year but this year he'll probably put a few additional planters and possible partitions to help with sound control.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved approval of the extension of premises for Lanran, LLC as shown on the plan on file to include six picnic tables in the street area cordoned off by jersey barriers placed by the city, to include the sidewalk in between limited to transportation of alcohol beverages contingent upon site plan approval by the DPW and the Health Department and a site inspection by the Building Department prior to operation. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

- Veracruz Foods, Inc. d/b/a La Veracruzana, 31 Main St.

Sunia Hood, owner of La Veracruzana, was present and noted she is hoping to have the exact same footprint as last year with the jersey barriers in the street with the rest of the area roped off. Sunia noted she will be erecting a tent again because it helps with noise and dirt from Main Street. Sunia will place six tables with four chairs at each table in the street area with two smaller tables on the sidewalk in front of the restaurant. Sunia noted she will need to cross sidewalks with alcohol and noted that any space that isn't cordoned off with jersey barriers will have crowd control belts blocking off the area.

Commissioner Yakovlev pointed out that Zephyr Rugs had concerns last year with the tent.

Sunia Hood noted that the city allowed her to keep the tent as long as it was directly in front of her restaurant and noted that any tables that were beyond the restaurant facade were under umbrellas. Sunia concluded by saying that once the city informed Zephyr Rugs that La Veracruzana was allowed to keep the tent, she didn't hear any further complaints.

Commissioner Yakovlev advised Sunia to give her neighbors a heads up that the tent is going up again.

Sunia Hood noted she will absolutely do that.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved approval of the extension of premises for Veracruz Foods, Inc. as shown on plan on file with the License Commission to include six tables and 24 additional seats cordoned off by jersey barriers to be placed by the city, to include the sidewalk in between limited to transportation of alcohol beverages only and contingent upon site plan approval by the DPW and the Health Department and a site inspection by the Building Department prior to operation. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

- Local Burger, Inc. d/b/a Local, 16 Main St.

Jeff Igneri, president of Local Burger, Inc., was present and stated he hopes to have the same set-up as last year with two picnic tables and three four-top tables. Jeff noted he will use the same barriers that

the city dropped last year with planters in spaces with no barriers. There will be a staff person outside monitoring the area, each table will have an umbrella and there is a need to cross the sidewalk with alcohol for transportation.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved approval of the extension of premises for Local Burger, Inc. as shown on plan on file with the License Commission to include 2 picnic tables and three 4-top tables, cordoned off by jersey barriers to be placed by the city, to include the sidewalk in between limited to transportation of alcohol beverages only and contingent upon site plan approval by the DPW and the Health Department and a site inspection by the Building Department prior to operation. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

- Zingara, Ltd. d/b/a Packard's, 14 Masonic St.

Bob McGovern, owner of Packard's, was present and stated he will have picnic tables and jersey barriers at either end of the requested 10x40 area with planters throughout. There will be no tent this year but umbrellas over tables, no music, and staff will be monitoring the outdoor area. The plan is on file with the License Commission.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved approval of the extension of premises for Zingara Ltd. as shown on plan on file with the License Commission to include two parking spaces directly in front of the restaurant, cordoned off by jersey barriers to be placed by the city, to include the sidewalk in between limited to transportation of alcohol beverages only and contingent upon site plan approval by the DPW and the Health Department and a site inspection by the Building Department prior to operation. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

5. NEW BUSINESS

The clerk noted she will include an agenda item regarding the Ibiza Tapas license on the April 7th meeting agenda.

6. ADJOURN

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 p.m. Commissioner Kahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 3-0.