

PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 27, 2022

LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR HING GARDENS

A public hearing was called to order at 6:00 PM. by Ms. Johnson-Rolfe. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that this public hearing is being held to review an initial liquor license application submitted by Hing Gardens. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe asked for public comments on the application. After a few minutes, she noted that there were no comments. Mr. Kitchen explained that the need for the new license is due to the fact that the establishment has had a change or ownership.

Ms. Johnson-Rolfe adjourned the public hearing at 6:09 PM.

Note: Before beginning the meeting, those assembled stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

JULY 27, 2022

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order at 6:09 PM by Chairman Paula Johnson-Rolfe. In attendance were Board members Leslie Haynes, Sandra Sinford, Carole Porcher, and Jake Patryn; Town Manager Bill Kitchen; Secretary Cathy Lord; Mary Angarola, David Clark, Bryan Porcher, Bruce Smith, Ed Pellon.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2022 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Sandra Sinford, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board VOTED:

To approve municipal payroll warrant #110 in the amount of \$44,168.30; to approve municipal payroll warrant #1 in the amount of \$13,057.24; to approve municipal payroll warrant #3 in the amount of \$19,885.84; and, to approve municipal parole warrant #5 in the amount of \$12,394.96.

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board VOTED:

To approve municipal accounts payable warrant #108 in the amount of \$19,270.97; to approve accounts payable warrant #109 in the amount of \$378,339.51; to approve accounts payable warrant #2 in the amount of \$63,838.85; to approve accounts payable warrant #4 in the amount of \$38,006.47; and, to approve accounts payable warrant #6 in the amount of \$126,880.58 .

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board VOTED:

To approve school warrant #70122 in the amount of \$475,205.52 and to approve school warrant #71522 in the amount of \$194,975.86 .

3. LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION - HING GARDENS

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board VOTED:

To approve and sign a liquor license application submitted by Hing Gardens.

4. EXTENSION OF LIQUOR LICENSE PRIVILEGES - BAD LITTLE BREWING COMPANY LLC

Mr. Kitchen noted that Bad Little Brewing Company is requesting an extension of their liquor license privileges at their establishment located on Court Street. He explained that the restaurant intends to have additional seating outside in a roped-off area with picnic tables adjacent to the business.

Ms. Mary Angarola was recognized by Chairman Johnson-Rolfe. Ms. Angarola claimed that the business owners were not in compliance with state liquor regulations. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe explained that it is up to the state liquor bureau to determine if businesses are in compliance with state laws. She noted that as far as the Board knows the information provided on the application is accurate as provided. Ms. Angarola claimed that the information was inaccurate. Mr. Patryn explained that the Board is voting to send the permit to the State for review based on state statutes and that the State will take action on the permit. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe asked Ms. Angarola to wait until she was recognized during the discussion to cut down on people talking over each other. Mr. Kitchen added that the CEO looked at the addition of the picnic tables and saw no problems. Mr. Patryn pointed out that the application site diagram indicates that the picnic tables are in a roped-off area within the perimeter of the building itself. Mr. David Clark said that the location of the picnic tables creates a compliance issue in that the establishment no longer meets the legal distance requirements from a school. Mr. Kitchen noted that he was not sure if the CEO had checked the distance from the school. Ms. Angarola stated that it seems the owners do not seem to have to comply with laws. Ms. Sinford commented that these are public concerns and that the distance from the school should be ascertained. Mr. Patryn noted that the site diagram does not indicate that the addition of picnic tables makes the alcohol service any closer to the school.

On a motion by Jake Patryn, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board
VOTED:

To approve submitting the extension of liquor license privileges for Bad Little Brewing Company LLC application to the State licensing bureau for their review to include an inspection by the CEO.

Vote on Motion: 4 members voting in favor and 1 member voting in opposition (Mr. Haynes)

Mr. Haynes pointed out that the State should inspect the establishment and the location of the roped-off area for compliance. Mr. Clark commented that the State expects towns to do due diligence. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe reviewed the state liquor statutes (Maine revised statutes) and she pointed out that the state liquor bureau inspects and either approves or disapproves applications.

5. OFF-PREMISES CATERING - BAD LITTLE BREWING COMPANY LLC

Ms. Johnson-Rolfe explained that the Board has a special permit for catering privileges to review for Bad Little Brewing Company LLC to cater an event at the Machias Wild Blueberry Festival on August 19th from 3:30 to 7:30 PM at Middle River Park. She added that the event is being sponsored by Downeast Coastal Conservancy.

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Jake Patryn, the Board
VOTED:

To approve the application for off-premises catering by Bad Little Brewing Company LLC for an event on August 19th at Middle River Park.

6. TELE-BUSINESS CENTER OFFICE RENTAL

Mr. Kitchen advised the members of the Board that he has been approached by multiple organizations interested in renting portions of the tele-business center. He pointed out that it would not work to have a common entrance for renters and he has been looking at reconfiguring

the entrance to the facility. Mr. Kitchen advised that the Town would realize approximately \$300. per month from individual renters (\$1200. per month/\$14,000. per year in annual income).

Ms. Johnson-Rolfe stated the need to look at relocating the town office and she said that it makes sense to have one municipal building. Ms. Porcher noted the need to consider future growth; she added that signing a lease would delay the process. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe commented that potential renters would have to be questioned as to their interest in agreeing to leases of less than a year's duration if the town office were to be relocated. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe commented that the Board needs to seriously explore the option of moving the town office, something which has been discussed since 2017. Ms. Sinford pointed out that the second floor layout of the tele-business center would have to be reconfigured. Mr. Ed Pellon said that he disagreed with moving the town office saying that there is a lot of walk-in business and voting that occurs in the current town office location. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that she has asked people if there is a substantial amount of walk-in traffic and has been told this is not the case.

Mr. Kitchen said he thought a committee should be formed to move the process forward with a mechanism to meet every two weeks to discuss the process and steps that need to be followed. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted needs should be discussed with town office personnel. She added that it is important to keep the ball rolling since there are many considerations in moving the town office.

7. CITIZEN CONCERNS

Mr. Bruce Smith said he had concerns about a contractor working on a roof in the downtown area without safety precautions in place. He pointed out that he had spoken to the Town Manager regarding this situation and that the Town Manager had supposedly spoken to the CEO.

Mr. Smith asked about progress with the by-pass project. Ms. Kitchen noted that this was an expensive project and that the Maine Department of Transportation withdrew it's interest.

Mr. Smith noted the need for a pedestrian crosswalk between the Bluebird Restaurant and the Irving station. Mr. Kitchen explained that many people have commented on this need and that he has asked the MDOT to look at a crosswalk.

8. REFERENDUM QUESTION FOR CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION - MACHIAS HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Kitchen read aloud the referendum question for the September 13th referendum vote for the construction of two additional classrooms at Machias High School. The Board signed the referendum paperwork.

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM.