

**VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

Call to Order

President Bass called the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Lincolnwood Board of Trustees to order at 6:34 P.M., Tuesday, February 20, 2018, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Village of Lincolnwood, County of Cook and State of Illinois.

Roll Call

On roll call by Deputy Clerk Engelmann the following were:

PRESENT: President Bass, Trustees Ikezoe-Halevi, Hlepas Nickell, Cope, Sugarman, Patel (6:36 pm)

ABSENT: Spino

A quorum was present.

Also present: Timothy Wiberg, Village Manager; Ashley Engelmann, Assistant Village Manager; Steven Elrod, Village Attorney; Charles Meyer, Assistant to the Village Manager; Heather McFarland, Management Analyst, Mike Hansen, Fire Chief, Andrew Letson, Public Works Director, Nadim Badran, Assistant to the Public Works Director, Steve McNellis, Community Development Director, Bruce Rottner, Acting Police Chief, Robert Merkel, Finance Director, and Doug Hammel, Development Manager.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 6, 2018 Committee of the Whole and February 13, 2018 Budget Workshop meetings were distributed in advance of the meeting and were examined.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell moved to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Sugarman seconded the motion. The motion passed with a Voice Vote.

Regular Business

1. Employee Recognitions
 - Mayor Bass and Village Manager Wiberg presented an introduction to the employee recognition program and thanked the employees for their years of service.
 - David Gomez, Laborer, was recognized for 10 years of service by the Village Manager and Mayor Bass.
 - Tom Siwik, Captain, was recognized for 20 years of service by Fire Chief Hansen.

2. Discussion Concerning a Request from 90 Miles Cuban Café for Modifications to its Liquor License Hours:

- Mr. Wiberg provided an overview of the liquor license requirements for the Village. Mr. Wiberg stated that Class “A” Liquor License holders, such as 90 Miles Cuban Café are allowed to stay open Sunday through Thursday nights until 1:00 am and until 2:00 am on Friday and Saturday nights. Mr. Gonzalez, Owner of 90 Miles Cuban Café, is requesting that the Liquor License be extended to 4:00 am on Friday and Saturday nights due to the nature of his business in which they offer entertainment and other events until later hours and a lot of their clientele comes up from the City of Chicago and the longer hours allow for a more significant enticement for people to make the trip to the suburbs. Mr. Wiberg stated that Mr. Gonzalez was notified of this meeting and offered an opportunity to attend the meeting to discuss the business owner’s request.
- Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi asked if the mall had an issue with the extended hours. Mr. Wiberg stated that the mall is inaccessible at that time and that Mr. Gonzalez had stated that the mall was not opposed to the extended hours.
- Trustee Cope asked about what are the public safety concerns related to these types of establishments. Acting Chief Rottner stated that Skokie, Morton Grove, and Niles have allowed for liquor licenses that go until 4:00 am and relayed the Police activity for those establishments during the additional time that the establishment is open and serving alcohol.
- Trustee Sugarman asked if there were any other requests for a later closing period. Mr. Wiberg confirmed that there were no other requests for the 4:00 am liquor license at this time.
- Acting Chief Rottner stated that the other 90 Miles to Cuba restaurants in Chicago are B.Y.O.B. and that they do not have a 4:00 am liquor license to operate similar to what is being requested by the business owner.
- Mr. Wiberg said that if the Village Board was interested in entertaining this request, then the Village Board could direct staff to draft language to create a new type of liquor license to allow for 4:00 am liquor licenses.
- Trustee Cope stated that he was not persuaded by the idea of having a liquor license until 4:00 am but would be interested in hearing from the business owner for his reasoning for the request.
- Trustee Patel asked Attorney Elrod if the Village could issue a 4:00 am license and then have the ability to remove the license at a later date. Attorney Elrod said that there were several options available including a look back period for the liquor license or conditions for revocation. Attorney Elrod said that it would be tied to the license itself and not to the category.
- Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that she had a concern that if the Village were to offer a 4:00 am license then the Village may receive several requests for 4:00 am liquor licenses from other establishments.
- Attorney Elrod stated that the Village does not have to make it a yearly license and can issue the license only for six months if needed.
- Mr. Gonzalez spoke to the Village Board regarding his desire to expand the liquor license. He stated that because a lot of his customers travel from the City of Chicago and do not get to the business until 11:30 pm / 12:00 am they then have to leave to head back home and would otherwise stay in the City as opposed to making the trip. Mr. Gonzalez stated that there is a dinner crowd that comes in around 7:00 pm and then leaves around 9:30 pm and then later he has an older crowd who comes up and is entertained by shows put on by the business.
- Trustee Cope asked if Mr. Gonzalez would be interested in staying open until 2:30 am due to concerns related to overextended the Police Department. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the later times allow for him to extend his shows and to re-coup his money for having a show that can go later. He would be open to it.

- Trustee Hlepas Nickell asked Mr. Gonzalez how much of his sales were mostly food or mostly liquor from 10:00 pm to 2:00 am. Mr. Gonzalez said that the kitchen is open to 2:00 am serving food so that it is hard to determine what portion is alcohol versus food.
- Trustee Sugarman asked about the possibility of allowing for a license for 90 days as a test.
- Trustee Hlepas Nickell asked if Mr. Gonzalez would be open to reimbursing the Village for a portion of the expenses related to public safety. Mr. Gonzalez stated that his staff is always on the floor and make efforts to ensure that patrons are not overserved. Mr. Gonzalez said that he has never had an incident and that he wants to have additional income as the reasoning for his request.
- Trustee Cope asked how liquor sales fit into the business model from 2:00 am to 4:00 am. Mr. Gonzalez stated that it would be about increasing the customer volume to help with expenses.
- Mr. Gonzalez stated that he spoke with the mall about it, and they were positive on the subject of staying open later.
- Mayor Bass polled the Board regarding the possibility of allowing for a 4:00 am license
 - Trustee Patel said that he would be open to a test period of three months or six months
 - Trustee Cope said that he would like to get more information before he proceeds with this process. Trustee Cope said that he may be interested in allowing for a separate license until 3:00 am for a six month period.
 - Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that her concern was that by staying open later other restaurant could come forward requesting later liquor licenses but would be interested in carving out the license for certain areas that includes factors related to proximity to residential areas and to preserve the quality of life and safety of neighborhoods.
 - Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi stated that she was in support of the idea with the factors of a look back and a shortened period.
 - Trustee Sugarman stated that he was in support.
 - Based on the discussion of the group, the Mayor stated that he felt that there was a consensus to draft language related to a six month period and a look back period related to the liquor license.

Public Comment

- Charles Halevi spoke during the public forum about the equal rights amendment (ERA). Mr. Halevi stated that Illinois and one other state are needed to approve the ERA to have it added to the Constitution and requested that residents become aware and support the ERA for the State of Illinois.

Adjournment

At 7:39 P.M. Trustee Cope moved to adjourn Committee of the Whole, seconded by Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi.
The motion passed with a Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Meyer
Deputy Village Clerk