



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Council Session

## Item E-2

**Public Hearing on Request from Axe Holes, LLC dba Axe Holes,  
2300 N. Webb Road, Suite 109 for a Class “A” Liquor License**

*Council action will take place under Consent Agenda item G-4.*

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

# Council Agenda Memo

**From:** RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

**Meeting:** April 14, 2020

**Subject:** Public Hearing on Request from Axe Holes, LLC dba  
Axe Holes, 2300 N. Webb Road, Suite 109 for a Class  
“A” Liquor License

**Presenter(s):** RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

## Background

Section 4-2 of the Grand Island City Code declares the intent of the City Council regarding liquor licenses and the sale of alcohol.

### **Declared Legislative Intent**

- It is hereby declared to be the intent and purpose of the city council in adopting and administering the provisions of this chapter:
- (A) To express the community sentiment that the control of availability of alcoholic liquor to the public in general and to minors in particular promotes the public health, safety, and welfare;
  - (B) To encourage temperance in the consumption of alcoholic liquor by sound and careful control and regulation of the sale and distribution thereof; and
  - (C) To ensure that the number of retail outlets and the manner in which they are operated is such that they can be adequately policed by local law enforcement agencies so that the abuse of alcohol and the occurrence of alcohol-related crimes and offenses is kept to a minimum.

## Discussion

Axe Holes, LLC dba Axe Holes, 2300 N. Webb Road, Suite 109 has submitted an application for a Class “A” Liquor License. A Class “A” Liquor License allows for the sale of beer on sale only inside the corporate limits of the city.

City Council action is required and forwarded to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission for issuance of all licenses. This application has been reviewed by the Clerk, Building, Fire, Health, and Police Departments. See attached Police Department report.

Also submitted was a request for Liquor Manager Designation for Eric Christensen, 2610 So. Engleman Road, Alda, Nebraska. Mr. Christensen has completed a state approved alcohol server/seller training program. Staff recommends approval of the liquor license contingent upon final inspections.

### **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Approve the application.
2. Forward to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission with no recommendation.
3. Forward to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission with recommendations.
4. Deny the application.

### **Recommendation**

Based on the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission's criteria for the approval of Liquor Licenses, City Administration recommends that the Council approve this application.

### **Sample Motion**

Move to approve the application for Axe Holes, LLC dba Axe Holes, 2300 N. Webb Road, Suite 109 for a Class "A" Liquor License contingent upon final inspections and Liquor Manager Designation for Eric Christensen, 2610 So. Engleman Road, Alda, Nebraska.

**Supplement**

309

Liquor License Investigation

Grand Island Police Department  
Supplemental Report

Date, Time: 3-25-20  
Reporting Officer: Sgt Dvorak  
Unit #: CID

Eric and Danielle Christensen are planning to open a new recreational establishment, Axe Holes in the old YMCA Express location in the Gordman's Plaza on Webb Road. They are applying for a Class A Liquor License, which allows on sale of beer only, and only on the premises. The business is in the early stages of preparation for opening.

I noted on the application that Eric Christensen disclosed that he has been convicted of three (3) historical misdemeanors, all of which appear to be connected to partying and/or drinking, and several infractions for speeding. Danielle Christensen disclosed that she was convicted of one DUI and three (3) traffic infractions. None of the misdemeanors were in the past five (5) years.

I checked both Eric and Danielle through Spillman and NCJIS. I found nothing noteworthy in Spillman reports, and found both subjects have valid Nebraska drivers licenses. I found neither to have any outstanding warrants for their arrest. I also checked both Christensens through a paid Law Enforcement only database, which tends to provide mostly personal identifying information and details of any civil issues. No concerns were located.

On 3-25-20 Nebraska State Patrol Investigator Jeromy McCoy and I met with the Christensens at 2300 N Webb, suite 109. Several contractors were present, and building plans and renovations were discussed. No renovations had yet taken place. The site is mainly a very large open space, with one large glass enclosed room and two offices down a separate hallway.

Eric and Danielle advised that they have never owned or operated such a business, have never worked in the service industry, and decided to take a chance on this venture because they have seen a high interest in axe throwing facilities in larger municipalities. Eric advised he plans to keep his current job, in Kearney, for the time being. Danielle told us she plans to be on site most of the time after the business opens.

The Christensens said they plan to have only afternoon and evening business hours on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The plan to be open all day on Saturdays, and open noon to ten pm on Sunday. They foresee regular hours of three pm to eleven pm on the weekdays. Danielle advised she plans to only employ two or three other employees, those those personnel have not yet been identified.

Eric told us they plan to offer eight lanes of axe throwing, along with other activities such as archery tag, corn hole and giant Jenga. The Christensens envision a family focused business most of the time, with the ability to rent the facility for parties and bring in (or cater) food for parties. They currently plan to offer only pre-packaged snack items and have no plans for a kitchen facility. They will also offer non-alcoholic beverage selections, in addition to canned beer. Eric plans to have both axe throwing and corn hole tournaments periodically, and they intend to offer league competition at a later

04/07/20

date.

We discussed the concerns of having intoxicated people throwing axes. Eric told us that they are aware of the liability, and plan to copy the Omaha and Lincoln facility rules, with a three (3) beer maximum service when patrons are in the axe throwing area. Eric and Danielle said they will only offer canned beer, and do not plan to have table service. Eric envisions that patrons will have to come to the office/greeting area to purchase their beers. The cooler and beer storage area will be located in the office at the southwest corner of the building, completely removed from the customer area. Eric said they plan to install a good security/surveillance system, so the entire facility can be monitored from the front counter, which is located inside the entry door on the northwest corner of the building.

I asked Eric about his misdemeanor convictions in Colorado. He advised that the MIP was when a party he was attending was busted, and the first Disorderly violation was due to a loud house party he was hosting, and the second stemmed from a fight with another guy when they found out they were both dating the same girl. Eric said neither he nor the other guy wanted to file assault charges, so they were both charged with Disorderly violations.

McCoy then covered several other Liquor Commission items and training requirements, and again cautioned the Christensens regarding the dangerous nature of throwing axes while intoxicated. Eric stressed that they will make it a point of emphasis to ensure drunk people do not partake in the axe throwing. He reiterated that they do not envision their venture being a bar/nightclub setting, but stressed they want to be more family oriented and recreation focused.

The Grand Island Police Department has no objections to Eric and Danielle Christensen, as owners of Axe Holes, receiving a Class A liquor license to serve canned beer at their new axe throwing recreational facility.

04/07/20

# Liquor License Application: Class "A" : Axe Holes

