



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Council Session

Item E-2

**Public Hearing on Request from Grand Island Casino Resort, LLC
dba Grand Island Casino Resort, 700 E Stolley Park Road, Suite 2
for a Class “I” 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: January 10, 2023

Subject: Public Hearing on Request from Grand Island Casino Resort, LLC dba Grand Island Casino Resort, 700 E. Stolley Park Road, Suite 2 for a Class "I" 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

Grand Island Casino Resort, LLC dba Grand Island Casino Resort, 700 E. Stolley Park Road, Suite 2 has submitted an application for a Class "I" Liquor License. A Class "I" Liquor License allows for the sale of alcohol 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 Vincent Fiala, 3784 Lilac Lane. Mr. Fiala has completed a state approved alcohol server/seller training program. Staff recommends approval of the liquor license contingent upon final inspections and Liquor Manager Designation for Vincent Fiala, 3784 Lilac Lane.

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

Grand Island Casino Resort, LLC dba Grand Island Casino Resort, 700 E. Stolley Park Road, Suite 2 for a Class "I" Liquor License contingent upon final inspections and Liquor Manager Designation for Vincent Fiala, 3784 Lilac Lane.



Grand Island Police Department

Officer Report for Incident L22121737

Nature: Liquor Lic Inv
Location: PAOS

Address: 700 STOLLEY PARK RD E; suite 2
Grand Island NE 68801

Offense Codes:

Received By: Dvorak T	How Received: T	Agency: GIPD
Responding Officers: Dvorak T		
Responsible Officer: Dvorak T	Disposition: CLO 01/03/23	
When Reported: 15:06:22 12/27/22	Occurred Between: 15:06:22 12/27/22 and 15:06:22 12/27/22	

Assigned To:	Detail:	Date Assigned: **/**/**
Status:	Status Date: **/**/**	Due Date: **/**/**

Complainant:

Last:	First:	Mid:
DOB: **/**/**	Dr Lic:	Address:
Race:	Sex:	Phone:
		City: ,

Offense Codes

Reported:	Observed:
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Circumstances

LT47 LT47 Gambling/Casino/Race Trk

Responding Officers:	Unit :
Dvorak T	309

Responsible Officer: Dvorak T	Agency: GIPD
Received By: Dvorak T	Last Radio Log: **.***.*** **/**/**
How Received: T Telephone	Clearance: CL CL Case Closed
When Reported: 15:06:22 12/27/22	Disposition: CLO Date: 01/03/23
Judicial Status:	Occurred between: 15:06:22 12/27/22
Misc Entry:	and: 15:06:22 12/27/22

Modus Operandi:	Description :	Method :
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Involvements

Date	Type	Description	Owner/CEO
01/03/23	Name	Kehl, Daniel J	Owner/CEO

12/27/22	Name	Fiala, Vincent J	Owner/proposed mgr
12/27/22	Name	Grand Island Casino Resort,	location

01/03/23

Narrative

309 Liquor License Investigation
Grand Island Police Department

Grand Island Casino Resort LLC, doing business as the Grand Island Casino Resort, has applied for a Class I Liquor License; beer wine and distilled spirits on sale only; for the temporary casino at the concourse of Fonner Park. Vincent Fiala is listed as the potential on-site liquor manger for the Grand Island Casino Resort. Elite Casinos out of Iowa is the management team for the new facility.

Responsible LEO:

Approved by:

Date

01/03/23

Supplement

309

Grand Island Casino Resort

Grand Island Police Department
Supplemental Report

Date, Time: 12-28-22

Reporting Officer: Sgt Dvorak #309

Unit #: CID

The temporary Casino located in the concourse of Fonner Park has applied for a Class I liquor license for that location, until the new physical casino is built on the property, sometime in the next two years. The area of the temporary casino is currently covered by NE License #078819, issued to Fonner Park.

Elite Casinos, under the Kehl Management Group, is the operator of the new casino. Daniel Kehl, CEO of Elite Casinos, and Vincent Fiala formed a new LLC for this location. Kehl is the operating manager and Fiala is the proposed liquor manager and in charge of on site operations.

In beginning my background check, I noted that Elite Casinos, and the Kehl Group, are involved in the operation of at least four other casinos in Iowa and South Dakota. I found no active warrants for Kehl or Fiala. I utilized our local Spillman database, State NCJIS files, and a paid law enforcement only site to check backgrounds. I found no entry in Nebraska files for Kehl, who is a resident of Iowa. I found Fiala recently obtained a Nebraska operators license, and no other State history.

Fiala indicates that he has been the Assistant General Manager of a casino in Larchwood IA for the past nine years. He also completed the TIPs training program recommended by the NLCC.

Fiala self disclosed historical traffic violations, with the most recent a 2015 citation for speeding in Iowa. All other violations were more than 15 years ago. I located nothing of concern in any of the contacts. Fiala lists a spouse, Julie Fiala, who signed a non-participation affidavit. I found no local or NE records for Julie. Daniel Kehl lists a spouse, Leslie Funk, who also signed a spousal non-participation affidavit. I found no local or State records for Funk.

The law enforcement only site mostley covers concerns of a civil nature, such as lawsuits, bankruptcies, liens and judgements. I found no items of concern for anyone mentioned in this application.

Due to the fact that Elite Casinos, Kehl Management Group, and both Kehl and Fiala have been involved in casino management for many years, and local, day to day, operation of the Grand Island Casino Resort will likely be handled by individuals not involved with, or listed in, the formal LLC, I did not meet with anyone in person regarding procedures or local police involvement.

The Grand Island Police Department does not oppose the issuance of a Class I Liquor License, beer, wine and distilled spirits on sale only, for the Grand Island Casino Resort, operated by the Grand Island Casino Resort LLC.

01/03/23

Liquor License Application: Class "I": Grand Island Casino Resort

