



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Council Session

Item E-2

**Public Hearing on Request from Meier Recreation, LLC dba
Infuse Mixology Bar & Bistro, 313 West 3rd Street for a Class “C”
Liquor License**

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

Council Agenda Memo

From: RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Meeting: September 9, 2014

Subject: Public Hearing on Request from Meier Recreation, LLC
dba Infuse Mixology Bar & Bistro, 313 West 3rd Street
for a Class “C” Liquor License

Item #'s: E-2 & I-2

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

Meier Recreation, LLC dba Infuse Mixology Bar & Bistro, 313 West 3rd Street has submitted an application for a Class “C” Liquor License. A Class “C” Liquor License allows for the sale of alcohol on and off sale 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.

Also submitted with the application was a request from Blake Meier, 920 Sagewood Avenue for a Liquor Manager Designation.

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 Meier Recreation, LLC dba Infuse Mixology Bar & Bistro, 313 West 3rd Street for a Class "C" Liquor License contingent upon final inspections and Liquor Manager Designation for Blake Meier, 920 Sagewood Avenue contingent upon completion of a state approved alcohol server/seller training program.

09/03/14
09:25

Grand Island Police Department
LAW INCIDENT TABLE

Page: 450
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City : Grand Island
Occurred after : **:**:** **/**/****
Occurred before : **:**:** **/**/****
When reported : 09:00:00 08/25/2014
Date disposition declared : **/**/****
Incident number : L14083295
Primary incident number :
Incident nature : Liquor Lic Inv Liquor Lic Inv
Incident address : 313 3rd St W
State abbreviation : NE
ZIP Code : 68801
Contact or caller :
Complainant name number :
Area location code : PCID Police - CID
Received by : Vitera D
How received :
Agency code : GIPD GIPD Grand Island Police Dept
Responsible officer : Vitera D
Offense as Taken :
Offense as Observed :
Disposition :
Misc. number : RaNae
Geobase address ID :
Long-term call ID :
Clearance Code : CL CL Case Closed
Judicial Status : NCI Non-criminal Incident
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INVOLVEMENTS:

Px	Record #	Date	Description	Relationship
NM	194953	09/02/14	Infuse Mixology Bar & Bistro,	Business
NM	87146	08/28/14	Meier, Blake D	Owner/Manager
NM	161565	08/28/14	Meier, Chelsey A	Spouse

LAW INCIDENT CIRCUMSTANCES:

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Se Circu Circumstance code      Miscellaneous
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1  LT03  LT03 Bar/Night Club

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LAW INCIDENT NARRATIVE:

I Received a Copy of a Class C LLC Liquor License Application from Blake Meier for Infuse Mixology Bar & Bistro along with a Liquor Manager Application from Blake Meier.

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Grand Island Police Department
Supplemental Report

Date, Time: Tue Sep 02 09:27:52 CDT 2014

Reporting Officer: Vitera

Unit- CID

I received a copy of a Class C (beer, wine, distilled spirits on and off sale) LLC liquor license application for Infuse Mixology Bar & Bistro. I also received a copy of a liquor manager application from Blake Meier. While examining the applications, I noticed that Infuse Mixology will be directly across the street from a church (liquor licenses shall not be within 150' of a church, exceptions apply), Blake and his wife (Chelsey) disclosed some criminal convictions, the Meier's will not be borrowing in money to establish and/or operate the business, and the Meier's have lived in Grand Island for at least the last ten years.

I checked the Meier's through Spillman and NCJIS. I discovered some potential convictions in Spillman for Blake and Chelsey. I found some traffic convictions in NCJIS for Blake, but only one of them was undisclosed. Chelsey did not have any convictions listed in NCJIS. I checked the Meier's through a paid law enforcement-only database and didn't find anything out of the ordinary under Blake's name. The information did indicate that Chelsey has had three civil judgments against her since 2006 that apparently went to collections. I called two different collections agencies and discovered that all three judgments have been satisfied. I also did a general Internet search but couldn't pinpoint anything to either one of them except a Pinterest account for Chelsey.

NSP Investigator Fiala and I met with Blake on 8/29/14 at 313 W. 3rd. I asked Blake how he came up with the name of his business. Blake said he spent a substantial amount of time naming the business. He advised that "Infuse" means to absorb or take in. He said "Mixology" is basically a fancy name for a bartender. All together, Blake said his customers can literally absorb and take in all of his food and beverage creations.

Blake said he wants his bar and restaurant to be a little more upscale but a mix of different types of bars. He said he will have six or seven televisions on the wall, but he wouldn't call his bar a sports bar. He wants his customers to enjoy the food and then stick around and enjoy the atmosphere while having a few drinks afterwards. Blake plans on having a dress code and no immediate plans for live entertainment. Blake said his wife has a full time job but will occasionally help him out when he's in a bind. Other than that, he said he will have a couple of part time employees for waitresses, bartenders, and someone preparing the food. He envisions having some traditional food such as hamburgers and pizza, but he also wants to have some gourmet sandwiches and pastas that will be unique to his place.

I went over Blake's application with him, and he acknowledged the issue with a church being across the street but pointed out that J. Elizabeth & The Happy Brush is also within 150' of the church and received local approval and probably won't encounter any problems with the NLCC. The Wine Bar was in his current location and obviously received a liquor license in spite of the church being within 150 feet.

While continuing to peruse the application, I noticed that Blake isn't borrowing any money to establish and/or operate the business. He also checked the "No" box on the application for the question that asks if anyone else will own any of the property in his establishment. Blake said that he has not received any money from anyone. He is using credit and his savings. He also mentioned that his cousin (Andrew Meier) owns Mid-Nebraska Coin and will be supplying a juke box, video games, and a pool table for Infuse Mixology. Blake said he didn't think about those items when he filled out the application.

All in all, Blake and Chelsey have little to no criminal history in Nebraska. The application had only one minor undisclosed traffic conviction. Blake seems to have a good business plan, and the location recently had a liquor license prior to him leasing the building. The church across the street hasn't been an issue in the past. Blake has around eight years of experience working for Bandit's. The Grand Island Police Department has no objection to Infuse Mixology Bar & Bistro receiving a liquor license or to Blake Meier being the liquor manager.

