

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2020**

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A. Call to Order by President Smith at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance led by President Smith.
- C. Roll Call

Council Members Present: Robert John Smith, President of Council; Charles A. Vogel, Vice-President of Council; George H. Stewart, Second Ward; Scott Frankowski, Third Ward; Allison Berger, Fourth Ward; Cassandra Eccles, Fifth Ward; John R. Denny, Jr., At-Large

Also Present: Ted Curran, Township Treasurer; Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager; Brendan Lucas, Township Solicitor; Charles W. Steinert, Jr., P.E., Township Engineer; Scott K. Slagel, Police Superintendent; Loren R. Kephart, Public Service Superintendent; Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

Manager Jakubec noted procedures for the virtual meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING A REQUEST FOR INTER-MUNICIPAL TRANSFER OF LIQUOR LICENSE

President Smith noted the purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comments concerning a request for an inter-municipal transfer of restaurant liquor license No. R-14385 from BL Restaurant Operations, LLC, 236-204-244 W. Bridge Street, West Homestead, PA 15120 to Periwinkles, 900 Gamma Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

The Manager acknowledged Charles Caputo was in attendance to represent the applicant, WPK Gamma LLC. It was noted Michael Kratsa was also in attendance.

Mr. Caputo noted the site is the former Max & Erma's Restaurant. The use is a new restaurant concept with one component including the sale of alcohol. Since there were no alcohol licenses available in O'Hara one was found from Bar Louie in West Homestead to transfer to O'Hara.

Mr. Caputo explained the business is in line with trends in other areas of the country, with a quick-serve bakery and café; the other side of the building has a sit down family restaurant serving homemade food. He also noted the anticipated hours of operation. They hoped to offer off-site catering in the future. He anticipates the restaurant/bakery will open in early spring 2021.

Mr. Caputo stated alcohol would not be a high percentage of the business, but is needed to be competitive.

There were no questions from meeting attendees.

Solicitor Lucas recommended making the conditions known. President Smith questioned if the Max and Erma's Restaurant conditional use approval would still stand. Solicitor Lucas explained if the use was abandoned the new owner would need conditional use approval also.

Ms. Cindy Harris, Fox Pointe, questioned the need for a liquor license if the restaurant was not going to be open late at night. Mr. Caputo stated the restaurant would be open for dinner, until 8 or 9:00 p.m.

Manager Jakubec asked if the liquor license would allow catering with alcohol for businesses in RIDC. Mr. Caputo confirmed, adding on average, a restaurant with a liquor license versus without has a 30% boost in sales. Treasurer Curran noted 'Happy Hour' and Mr. Caputo added lunch and dinner alcohol sales.

Ms. Berger noted a lot of businesses in RIDC have been saying there is a need for a place to get something to eat for lunch.

Vice President Vogel recalled during his walks in RIDC he would check out the place and commended the nice job cleaning the site.

President Smith inquired about outdoor seating. Mr. Caputo indicated there would be outdoor seating for about 40 people on the patio.

Vice President Vogel noted the garage doors on the addition and presumed the doors would be open or closed depending on the weather.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Denny, Jr. to adjourn the Public Hearing was seconded by Vice President Vogel and carried unanimously. The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:20 p.m. and Council proceeded directly into the combined workshop and regular meeting.

Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

Attachment: Attendance Sheet