



WHEATON LOCAL LIQUOR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

WHEATON CITY HALL, 303 W WESLEY STREET, WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60187

January 8, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL VOTE

Chair Pearse called the January 8, 2026 meeting of the Local Liquor Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers of the Wheaton City Hall, 303 West Wesley Street and via Zoom.

Upon roll call, the following were present: Chair Pearse, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Laird, Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Whitmer. Absent: None. City Staff Present: James P. Kozik, Director of Planning and Economic Development.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 11, 2025

Commissioner Taylor moved and Commissioner Laird seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025 Local Liquor Commission meeting as submitted. On a voice vote, all voted aye.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Election of Chairperson – 2026

Mr. Kozik stated that Section 2-258 of the City Code requires that each board, commission or committee shall elect a chairperson and such other officers as it may deem appropriate on an annual basis and that such election shall take place at the first regularly scheduled meeting of each board, commission or committee following January 1 of each calendar year.

Commissioner Taylor moved and Commissioner Laird seconded a motion to nominate Commissioner Pearse to serve as Chair for 2026. On a voice vote, all vote aye.

2026 License Renewals - Section 6-90 of the Wheaton City Code - Royale Liquors LLC d/b/a Pete's Fresh Market

Mr. Kozik stated that Section 6-90 of the Wheaton City Code requires that licensees found guilty of a violation in the previous year, must attend a liquor license renewal meeting before the Local Liquor Commission prior to a license renewal.

Chair Pearse stated that in June of last year, the Liquor Control Commission conducted hearings in aggravation and mitigation with respect to the charges against Royale Liquors LLC d/b/a Pete's Fresh Market whereby liquor was sold to a person under the age of 21.

Mr. Armando Alcázar, representing Royale Liquors LLC d/b/a Pete's Fresh Market, described the steps they have taken since their violation to ensure that future violations do not occur.

Mr. Alcázar stated that Pete's continues to card everyone wishing to purchase alcohol and that Pete's is working on POS equipment upgrades which will require the scanning of ID's before a sales transaction can be completed.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Commissioner Laird then moved and Commissioner Whitmer seconded a motion to recommend that the license for 2026 be renewed for Royale Liquors LLC d/b/a Pete's Fresh Market. On a roll call vote, all voted aye.

Application for a Class M Liquor License - Stonehouse Market, LLC d/b/a Stonehouse on Hale - 126 N. Hale Street

Mr. Kozik stated that Stonehouse Market, LLC has submitted an application for a Class M Liquor License so they may offer wine for sale by the bottle to complement their houseware / entertaining / etc. offerings that they sell in their new store at 126 N. Hale Street (their second location). Mr. Kozik stated that the applicant also has a Class M License for their store at 111 Town Square.

Ms. Fran Rouse, who was present electronically, stated that alcohol sales are not a big part of her business and all of her employees are BASSET trained and their in-store POS equipment requires age verification.

Hearing no questions or comments, Commissioner Brown then moved and Commissioner Laird seconded a motion to recommend approval of a Class M Liquor License to Stonehouse Market, LLC d/b/a Stonehouse on Hale, 126 N. Hale Street. On a roll call vote, all voted aye.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Pearse
Chair - Wheaton Local Liquor Commission