

**Woburn License Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chamber
Thursday, December 16, 2021**

Voting Members present: Chairman Thomas Skeffington, Commissioner David Gilgun,
and Commissioner William Pappalardo

Also present: Woburn Police Capt. John Murphy, liaison to the License Commission

Chairman Skeffington convened the regular meeting of the License Commission at 6:02 p.m.

- 1. Shallots, Inc., 920 Main St., alleged violation - M.G.L. c.138, §77 – Ceasing to Conduct the Licensed Business:** Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to take from the table the matter of Shallots from the meeting of November 18, 2021; approved, 3-0. Clerk said he spoke to Ms. Nong from Shallots and she is unable to attend tonight’s meeting. Clerk told the commission Ms. Nong has indicated the landlord has changed his mind and now does not want to renew the license. Clerk said he advised Ms. Nong to make her landlord aware if the license is not renewed, it would be available to anyone who applies after the first of the year. Chairman Skeffington asked the commission to continue the hearing until January. Commissioner Pappalardo asked what the purpose of continuing the hearing is. Commissioner Gilgun said he would like to hear from the license holder. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to continue the hearing until January and direct the clerk to invite Ms. Nong to the meeting; approved, 3-0.
- 2. Fortunato’s Restaurant, 428 Main St., Woburn, MA, application for change of category from wine and malt beverages to all alcoholic beverages:** Representing the applicant was Attorney Mark Salvati, 10 Cedar Street, Suite 26, Woburn, MA. Clerk said there are advertising and abutter notification components to a change of category application, of which he was not aware. Attorney Salvati said the applicant needs to notify abutters of the public hearing. Attorney Salvati asked the commission to continue the matter until the meeting in January. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to continue the hearing until the January meeting; approved, 3-0.
- 3. GQ Chicken Woburn LLC, dba Dave’s Hot Chicken, 28 Cedar St., Duxbury, MA, applications for a new beer and wine license and a new Common Victualer’s license at 296 Mishawum Road:** Representing the applicant was Robert Quinlan, 28 Cedar St., Duxbury, MA. Mr. Quinlan said Dave’s Hot Chicken is a fairly new franchise from the west coast that is heading eastward. He said the menu is comprised of fried chicken tenders, sliders, French fries, and kale slaw. He said there will be a take-out component and approximately 60 seats. He said this will be the first franchise location in New England. He said the food is good. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the board in regard to the petition. There were no respondents. Motion

made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Skeffington to grant the new liquor license and Common Victualer's license; approved, 3-0.

- 4. McDonald's Restaurant, 333 Montvale Avenue, application for transfer of Common Victualer's license:** Capt. Murphy said he was advised by Asst. City Clerk Joyce Gray that the applicant is on his way. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to table the matter until the applicant arrives; approved, 3-0.
- 5. Requests for extended hours on New Year's Eve:** Chairman Skeffington said there are eight requests for extended hours on New Year's Eve from the following license holders: Irish-American Club, Woburn Country Club, American Legion, Elks, Crowne Plaza, St. Anthony's, the Moose Club, and Strega. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun that the requests for extended hours in New Year's Eve be granted; approved, 3-0.
- 6. Approval of 2022 liquor, innholders, entertainment and amusement licenses:** Chairman Skeffington asked if there are still any outstanding liquor license applications. Clerk said Woburn Bowladrome has not yet filed for renewal but he expects its paperwork imminently. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant all the liquor, innholders, entertainment and amusement licenses for 2022; approved, 3-0.
- 7. Approval of meeting minutes from October 21, 2021:** No action.
- 8. Any other matters that may be legally before the Commission:** Chairman Skeffington said the commission last month discussed the new liquor licenses that are available due to the increase in quota based on the 2020 U.S. Census. He asked if the commission should put further discussion of the matter on the commission's agenda for January. Attorney Salvati said he filed on behalf of Ageda an application for a change of license classification from beer and wine to all alcohol, but the petition was not put on the agenda. Chairman Skeffington said the commission at its last meeting put a stop on the new licenses until there is further discussion. He said the commission will determine whether there is a need for the new licenses, particularly the new package store license. He said there will be discussion in January. Attorney Salvati asked if discussion will last beyond January. Chairman Skeffington said he expects everything should be wrapped up in January. Attorney Salvati asked if a similar application from Fortunato's for change in category can go forward. Chairman Skeffington said technically Fortunato's is in a different category because it was approved by special legislation. He said it is incumbent upon the commission to decide if there is a need for three new licenses. Commissioner Gilgun said when he suggested a moratorium he was more interested in further discussion about the newly available licenses. Chairman Skeffington asked if the commission wants to discuss only the new package store license in January. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to continue the discussion on the availability of the newly available package store license until the commission's meeting in January and to make the two newly available all alcohol restaurant licenses available for application; approved, 3-0.

9. McDonald's Restaurant, 333 Montvale Avenue, application for transfer of Common Victualer's license: Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to take from the table the application for a transfer of a Common Victualer's license at McDonald's, 333 Montvale Avenue; approved, 3-0. Motion made Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to gran the license transfer; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington asked Capt. Murphy if there have been any recent problems at the premises. Capt. Murphy said the have been issues in the past due to the proximity to the highway and because the restaurant is open 24 hours. He said things have calmed down a bit lately. He said he will confer with the new manager of the business.

10. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to adjourn; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees