

Franklin City Council
Public Hearing on Request for Transfer of a Pennsylvania Liquor License
September 11, 2017

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
Michael Dulaney
James Johnson
Samuel Lyons
James Marshall

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, City Solicitor
James Wetzel, Fire Chief
Harmony Motter, Finance Director
Sheila Boughner, Community Development Director
Charles Gibbons, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer
Kevin Anundson, Police Chief
Paul Myers, Meter Enforcement
John R Phillips, Oil Region Alliance
James Paulson, Trails to Ales
Jeff Brunton, OARS
Chris J Simms
Jodi Baker-Lewis, Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce
Jim Williams, Stifel
Craig Smith, Trails to Ales
Fred Mays, 429 Grant Street
Lorin DeGroat, Trails to Ales
Thomas Evans, 719 - 13th Street
Brian Pratt, 103 - 14th Street
David Ballard, Trails to Ales
Bernie Nerlich, 1828 Kelly Road
Marissa Dechant, The News-Herald/The Derrick

Mayor Baker called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. and noted that the purpose of the hearing was to allow for public questions and comments on the proposed liquor license transfer.

He then asked David Ballard to present the liquor license transfer request to Franklin City Council and those members of public who were present at the hearing.

Mr. Ballard indicated he had provided Council members with copies of the business plan of the Trails to Ales brewery, planned for two adjacent storefronts located at 1270 & 1272 Liberty Street in Franklin. He explained that the enterprise is seeking the transfer of the liquor license from a former establishment (the Sportsman's Tavern) to Trails to Ales, which will be a craft brewery and restaurant. When the total number of liquor licenses exceed one per 3000 residents, an inter-municipal liquor license transfer request requires the approval of both the governing body of the municipality where the licensed establishment would be located and the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

In addition to Ballard, the ownership team includes Lorin DeGroat, who owned the Sportsman's Tavern, which burned down; Bernie Nerlich; Craig Smith; Jim Paulson; and Jasen Fry.

Following Mr. Ballard's presentation, Mayor Baker asked if anyone from the audience cared to speak to the topic.

Jeff Brunton, owner and operator of Outdoor Allegheny River Services (OARS), a canoe, kayak and bicycle rental service in Franklin, said one of the first questions he hears from his customers is, "Where is the nearest brewery?" Currently, he must point them to Titusville or Slippery Rock, he said. Brunton said his customers are "families and a more mature audience," looking for some place to go when they get off the water for a sandwich and a craft beer.

Jodi Lewis, Executive Director of the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber believes the brewery/restaurant is a great idea. "This is a draw and will add to everything we already do," she said.

Mrs. Fletcher asked where attorney Wayne Hundertmark's practice, currently located in one of the storefronts, would go. Mr. Ballard said Hundertmark will move his practice next door into the other storefront and will use the back door. Mrs. Fletcher asked if any opposition is anticipated from area religious organizations and advised discussing the plans with area churches to make it clear that the establishment will not be a "rowdy" one.

Mr. Lyons said he knows many people who travel to the craft brewery in Slippery Rock.

Mr. Marshall said he understands the operation will have an air recovery system to keep the odor from the brewery to a minimum, which Mr. Ballard affirmed.

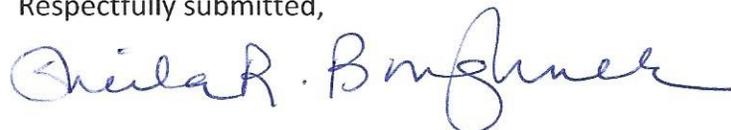
When asked for an estimated opening date, Mr. Ballard said their "hope date" is May or June of 2018. He said it takes four to six months just to get the brewing equipment. He indicated that he does not see the brew pub as being open past 9 p.m.

In response to a question from Mr. Lyons, he said the hope is to eventually distribute some of the beer made at the brewery.

Mr. Baker indicated the transfer of the liquor license would be on Council's agenda at its regular meeting to follow.

As there were no other comments, Mr. Baker closed the hearing at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheila R. Boughner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "S" and "B".

Sheila Boughner, Acting Recording Secretary