

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT

Case Number: Discussion

Application Type: Massage Operators License – New Business in Existing Business Location

Business Name: Garden City Wellness

Hearing Date: September 10, 2024

Prepared By: Brian Kepner, Deputy Director, Planning & Licensing Divisions, Planning & Development Department

Applicant: Amy Grier

Property Owner: McConnell Wilson Bliss, LLC

Address of Property: 1432 Monte Sano Avenue

Tax Parcel #: 044-1-070-00-0

Commission Districts: District 2, Super District 10

Background: New Business in Existing Business Location

ANALYSIS:

Location Restrictions:

- **Zoning:** Neighborhood Business – B-1

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Any person desiring to own, operate, conduct, or carry on in Augusta, Georgia, the business of offering or providing massage therapy, before doing so shall have in his/her possession the current operator's license. A licensee holding an operator's license under this chapter is not authorized or licensed to actually perform the massage therapy on the customers of the massage therapy business unless such licensee also holds a massage therapy license. Any person other than an exempt person, employed or otherwise engaged by a massage therapy business to perform massage therapy on members of the public shall, prior to engaging in such activity, have in person's possession, a then current massage therapy license issued by the Augusta-Richmond County Commission. A licensee holding a massage therapy license is not licensed to own, operate, conduct, or carry on a massage therapy business without an operator's license. Any massage therapy business which does not maintain an office in Augusta-Richmond County, but which sends a massage therapist into Augusta-Richmond County to provide massage therapy on an outcall basis, must possess an operator's License. Any person providing massage on an outcall basis must possess a massage therapy license.

Qualifications for Operator's License, Section 6-4-3

- Must be at least 18 years of age and have received a high school diploma or graduate equivalency diploma.
- Must be a citizen of the United States or alien lawfully admitted.
- Must show ownership in the business.
- Consent to criminal background check. No operator's license shall be issued to any person convicted of or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to any charge under any federal, state, or local law within ten (10) years prior to filing date of the application for an operator's license.
- No operator's license shall be issued to any person who has had any license under the police powers of Augusta revoked within two (2) years to filing the application for an operator's license,
- If a person in whose name an operator's license is issued is not a resident of Augusta, such person must appoint and continuously maintain in Augusta a registered agent upon whom any process, notice or demand required or permitted by law or under this chapter may be served.
- An operator's license may be denied where it appears to the Augusta-Richmond County Commission that the applicant does not have adequate financial strength or adequate financial participation on the proposed business to direct and manage its affairs, or where it appears that the applicant is intended or likely to be a surrogate for a person who would not otherwise qualify for an operator's license.
- At the time of filing the application for an operator's license and thereafter, the applicant must have in his/her employ or under a binding contract, a person who holds a massage therapy license for the applicant if the operator's license is granted.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The applicant will pay an administrative fee of \$120.00 for the Massage Operator's License, and a fee based on estimated gross revenue reported.

RECOMMENDATION:

Planning and Development Department recommends approval of the application subject to additional information not contradicting the applicant's statements.

Sherrif's Office recommends approval of the application subject to additional information not contradicting the applicant's statements.

NOTE: The staff report includes information available approximately two (2) weeks prior to the Public Services Committee meeting. It represents an evaluation of the facts presented by the applicant; research done by staff, and consideration of the relevant factors in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and the Alcohol Ordinance of Augusta, Georgia. New facts may emerge, and staff reserves the right to make an oral recommendation at the hearing based on all information available at that time.