

RESOLUTION NO. PC 2021-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA APPROVING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 338 AND VARIANCE NO. 21-02 TO ALLOW A 2,500 SQUARE FOOT CONVENIENCE STORE WITH LIQUOR SALES (ABC LICENSE TYPE 21 – OFF-SALE GENERAL) WITHIN 700 FEET OF PROPERTY USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES (TO THE SOUTH AND EAST OF THE PROPOSED CONVENIENCE STORE), IN AN EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 50-223 CESAR CHAVEZ STREET, SUITE “B” (APN 768-050-003); PARADISE LIQUOR, INC., APPLICANT.

WHEREAS, Paradise Liquor, Inc. filed an application for Conditional Use Permit No. 338 (CUP 339) and Variance No. 21-02 (VAR 21-02) to allow a 2,500 square foot convenience market/store with liquor sales (ABC License Type 21 – Off-Sale General) within 700 feet of property used for residential purposes (to the east and south of the proposed convenience store) in an existing commercial building located at 50-223 Cesar Chavez Street, Suite “B”; Assessor’s Parcel No. 768-050-003 (“Project”); and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on CUP No. 338 and VAR 21-02 on June 2, 2021 at the Coachella Permit Center, 53-990 Enterprise Way, Coachella, California regarding the proposed Project; and,

WHEREAS, at the Planning Commission hearing, the Applicant and members of the public were present and were afforded an opportunity to testify regarding the Project; and,

WHEREAS, the Project is permitted pursuant to Chapter 17.26 of the Coachella Municipal Code, subject to the attendant application for Variance No. 21-02 to allow the Project; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed use is necessary or desirable for the development of the community, is consistent with the objectives of the City’s General Plan, and is not detrimental to the existing uses or the uses specifically permitted in the zone in which the proposed use is to be located; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed site is adequate in size and shape to accommodate the proposed development; and,

WHEREAS, the site for proposed use relates properly to streets which are designed to carry the type and quantity of traffic to be generated by the proposed use; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, the conditions as stipulated by the City are necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission of the City of Coachella, California does hereby approve Conditional Use Permit No. 338 and Variance No. 21-02, subject to the findings and conditions of approval listed below.

FINDINGS FOR APPROVAL OF CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 338:

1. The proposed use will not be in conflict with, but will be in harmony with and in accordance with the objectives of the general plan because the proposed restaurant use with alcohol sales is within the Neighborhood Center land use designation according to the General Plan 2035, which allows the intended physical character to provide a comfortable, walkable environment for shoppers and diners and envisions neighborhood commercial uses mixed with high-density residential uses. The liquor sales establishment will be part of a convenience store that will provide for the sale of grocery items to serve adjoining residents.
2. The proposed use will be located, designed, constructed, operated and maintained so as to be compatible with the existing character of the general vicinity and shall not change the essential character of the same area because the proposed use is within a zoning designation of 'C-G' (General Commercial) which permits grocery stores subject to obtaining a conditional use permit to sell alcoholic beverages. The proposed use is on a major commercial thoroughfare street within a multi-tenant site that is compatible with the adjoining commercial uses and the conditional use permit can be revoked if any of the conditions of approval are violated.
3. Consideration has been given to harmony in scale, bulk, coverage and density, to the availability of public facilities and utilities, to harmful effect, if any, upon desirable neighborhood character, to the generation of traffic and the capacity of surrounding streets, and to any other relevant impact of development, because the existing commercial tenant space is within an existing commercial center with all infrastructure available on-site for the proposed grocery convenience store. Additionally, there is adequate ingress and egress into and out of the existing center to maintain the adequacy of the traffic circulation system serving the proposed use.
4. Where the proposed use may be potentially hazardous or disturbing to existing or reasonably expected neighboring uses, it must be justified by the common public interest as a benefit to the community as a whole. As conditioned, the proposed use will provide for the sale of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with a convenience grocery store with limitations on hours of operation. As such, there will be no hazardous or disturbing effects to the existing and neighboring uses.

5. The proposed use provides vehicular approaches to the property designed for reasonable minimal interference with traffic on surrounding public streets or roads, because all approaches are in full use for the patrons of the commercial center and no alterations are proposed as part of the request to sell and/or serve alcohol at the existing 944 square foot restaurant and no negative effects exists.
6. The City of Coachella has determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act as an “Existing Facilities” project (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301a). The project involves minor alterations to interior partition walls, and existing electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems within an existing commercial building.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 338:

1. Conditional Use Permit No. 338 is an approval for the sale of alcohol in conjunction with a proposed 2,500 square foot convenience grocery store. This approval is based on the floor plan submitted for the proposed project. Violation of any of the conditions of approval shall be cause for revocation of the Conditional Use Permit.
2. Alcohol sales must be commenced within 12 months of the effective date of this Conditional Use Permit unless a request for an extension of time is reviewed by the Planning Commission. A request for time extension shall be filed in a timely manner with applicable fees.
3. Any break in service, meaning the closure of the convenience grocery store use for a period of 180 consecutive days, will result in the expiration of this CUP.
4. The applicant will agree to defend and indemnify the City of Coachella against all claims, actions, damages, and losses, including attorney fees and costs, in the event that anyone files legal challenges to the approval of this project on the basis of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Prior to the issuance of building permits, the applicant shall execute a standard indemnification agreement subject to review by the City Attorney.
5. All plan submittals for interior renovations of the proposed convenience grocery store shall be the responsibility of the applicant; this includes plan submittals to the City of Coachella Building Division, and the Riverside County Fire Marshall’s Office.
6. The applicant shall be responsible for informing all subcontractors or other business entities providing services related to the project of their responsibility to comply with all pertinent requirements in the Coachella Municipal Code, including the requirement that a business license be obtained by all entities doing business in the City.
7. The use shall meet the standards within the limits established by the Coachella Municipal Code as related to emissions of noise, odor, dust, vibration, wastes, fumes, or any public nuisances arising or occurring incidental to the establishment or operation.

8. The applicant shall pay all fees at the time fees are due and comply with all requirements of other outside agencies.
9. Any sign approval for the project is a separate process requiring the issuance of a sign permit and building permit and it is subject to review and approval by the Development Services Department and Building and Safety. The applicant shall not place any signs on west side of the building facing the playground adjacent to the parking lot serving the business, such that any brands of alcohol are visible from the playground.
10. The sale of alcoholic beverages is approved under this CUP is for a 2,500 square foot convenience store that provides a variety of grocery food items and dry goods. The operator shall work with the City's Police Department to deter theft of beer and wine items from the refrigerated display areas.
11. Hours of operation for the convenience store may be from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday thru Wednesday and from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm Thursday through Saturday. The business shall offer the sale of prepared meals at all hours of operation. The last call for alcohol sales shall be 30 minutes before closing time.
12. The applicant shall comply with all requirements imposed by the State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and a review of this conditional use permit will be required if the business results in an increase in floor area.

PASSED APPROVED and ADOPTED this 2nd day of June 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Stephanie Virgen
Planning Commission Chairperson

ATTEST:

Yesenia Becerril
Planning Commission Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Carlos Campos
City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss.
CITY OF COACHELLA)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. PC2021-08 was duly adopted by the Planning Commission of the City of Coachella at a regular meeting thereof, held on this 2nd day of June 2021 by the following vote of the Planning Commission:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Yesenia Becerril
Planning Commission Secretary