



VILLAGE OF WINNEBAGO

LIQUOR COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:30 PM
108 West Main Street and Virtually

To access meeting from any device: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/336650045>
Or by (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679 | Access Code: 336-650-045

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. LeFevre at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: LeFevre, O'Rourke, Jeffers

Absent: Eubank

Guests Present: Attorney Mary Gaziano, Village Administrator Dienberg, and Mr. McDonald

3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Public Comment

No public comments were submitted.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes of **October 8, 2025**

Due to recording equipment issues at the last meeting, Mr. Dienberg requested that the October 8, 2025, minutes be reviewed at the next meeting to allow time to clarify unclear portions of the recording.

Action: No action was taken on the minutes of October 8, 2025.

6. Discussion

Because the applicant was present, the Liquor License Application item was moved to the first item of discussion.

b. 126 S Benton Street Liquor License Application – Tap on Benton, LLC (Mr. McDonald)

Attorney Gaziano reviewed the submitted application and supporting documents:

- Application cover sheet listed the business name as *Benton Street Tap*; the legal business name is *Tap on Benton, LLC*. Applicant to correct, initial, and date the change.
- Lease effective date is **January 1, 2026**; a license cannot be issued prior to that date.
- Corporation exists, but the business is not yet open.
- Once Commissioner Eubank approves, the license can be issued.

Supporting documents reviewed included:

- Signed lease.
- Statement of Principal for Mr. McDonald
- Background check/fingerprinting (no issues)
- Payment of required fees: **\$1,500** (Class A License) and **\$5,000** (application fee)
- Employee policy for serving alcoholic beverages
- Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Village of Winnebago as certificate holder and showing appropriate liquor liability coverage

Attorney Gaziano confirmed that, by her review, the application was in order.

Discussion:

- Attorney Gaziano recommended approval effective after January 1, 2026.
- Mr. McDonald noted that the State of Illinois typically responds quickly with liquor license approvals and stated he could contact the property owner, Lisa Smith, to change the lease effective date.
- Attorney Gaziano stated the date change could be handled via an amendment or addendum to the lease.
- Mr. O'Rourke asked about food service. Mr. McDonald explained menu options, table seating, and the pizza oven specifications.
- Mr. O'Rourke asked about future gaming; Mr. McDonald stated it is planned.

Motion:

Mrs. Jeffers moved to recommend approval of the liquor license pending:

1. Correction to the business name on the application, and

2. Amendment to the lease changing the effective date from **January 1, 2026**, to **Monday, November 17, 2025**, with all other terms remaining the same.

Second: Mr. O'Rourke

Roll Call Vote:

- Jeffers – Aye
- O'Rourke – Aye
- LeFevre – Aye

Motion carried unanimously of those present.

Attorney Gaziano stated the recommendation, along with the amended lease and corrected application, will be forwarded to Commissioner Eubank.

Mr. McDonald left the meeting.

6. Discussion

a. Tap Wall Discussion

Mr. LeFevre opened the discussion on the Tap Wall.

Mr. Dienberg provided copies of slides from *Pour My Beer*, the vendor proposed by Mr. Woolbright. He noted the brochure stated in a "legal analysis" section with a map of the states in the brochure that Illinois was "good to go".

Mr. O'Rourke asked about the expected opening timeline. Mr. Dienberg stated that he spoke with Mr. Woolbright earlier in the day and that Mr. Woolbright indicated that, due to the government shutdown, paperwork processing is delayed, and there is no update on the opening date.

Mr. LeFevre asked whether a Liquor Application had been submitted. Mr. Dienberg replied that an application has not yet been submitted. Attorney Gaziano reported that President Eubank tasked her with preparing an ordinance related to Tap Walls regardless of whether this business proceeds.

Mr. LeFevre agreed with that approach. Attorney Gaziano noted she has located a few example ordinances for reference.

7. New Business

None.

8. Executive Session

None

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mrs. Jeffers.

Meeting adjourned at **5:51 p.m. Motion carried.**

UNAPPROVED

Prepared from recording by:

Kellie Symonds, Deputy Clerk