

Item 24-0420: Class "B" Beer and Reserve "Class B" Liquor License application for Delaires LLC d/b/a Delaire's, David Boulanger, Agent, located at 823 W. College Ave, contingent upon approval from the Health and Inspections departments

Common Council

Wed, Jan 15, 2025 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 13:01

All right, with that, we come to a time of public participation, and we do have two members of the public who signed up to speak, but if you missed the sign-up sheet, that's okay. We're going to make sure that anybody who would like to speak on an item that appears on the agenda has the opportunity. We'd like to remind you to limit your comments to five minutes or less, and if we if we take longer than 30 minutes, the Council may extend public participation, but we'll deal with that if and when we get there. So, with that, we'll get started. First is Jamie Pappenfuss. Jamie, welcome.

Jaime Pappenfuss (Violet Social Club Salon - Owner) 13:41

Hello, everyone today. Sorry, I'm going to weirdly put this down. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jamie Pappenfuss. I own Violet Social Club Salon at 823 West College Avenue. I've been there for about a year and a half, and I'm coming today to talk about my upcoming neighbor Delaire's Gaming Lounge and their liquor license. I am hoping to ask the council to reconsider their liquor license or to consider stipulations that I would like done for my health and safety of the salon, on behalf of several of my neighbors and my stylists.

Jaime Pappenfuss (Violet Social Club Salon - Owner) 14:25

I did tune in for last week's meeting, and I was disappointed, and, truthfully, a little heart broken to see that it was going to pass five to zero. Since the beginning of them—from the construction up until today, I have been in the know with what's going on. And infamously, back in October, someone working for Mr. Boulanger accidentally came into my salon, and when I said to him, "This is going to be a spiked coffee lounge, correct?" He said, "Well, yes, but not serving drinks. For gambling machines." Which I took at its face value.

Jaime Pappenfuss (Violet Social Club Salon - Owner) 15:04

I immediately reached out to my representatives. I asked what could be done about this. I reached out to Katie Van Zeeland, who has been so helpful in pointing me in the right direction, who to talk to, who to rally for my cause. And one of my greatest shocks is that I truly feel what Mr. Boulanger is doing is a bait and switch. I feel like he's trying to hide crime in plain sight, not only because someone who worked for him himself told me, and where would an electrician working for Mr. Boulanger get the idea of illegal gambling machines if not from Mr. Boulanger himself?

Jaime Pappenfuss (Violet Social Club Salon - Owner) 15:43

I also find it suspicious that when the Council brought up their concerns to him, he went from it being a spiked coffee bar to a gaming lounge. I also find it suspicious that when the council presented their fears of him opening up an illegal gambling lounge, he changed his business plan and hired a lawyer who specializes in gambling laws. I find that when he said—when Katie said, "What about stipulations?" And he said, "There's no need for stipulations, because I won't be having any gambling machines," which, as the mother to a teenager, sounds suspicious and like maybe crime or trouble is afoot.

Jaime Pappenfuss (Violet Social Club Salon - Owner) 16:22

I can't help but think that a man who tried this same exact business model two years ago in Grafton, and it was turned down because of the use of the gambling machines and the fact that they are illegal in the state of Wisconsin, as all of you know. The city of Grafton turned him down because of that, because their city attorney said, "What you are asking us to approve is illegal." So, he packed up. He came to Appleton, where he does not live, and said, let me try this again, but with no mention of the gambling machines. And I looked at his business permit, I looked at his plans, and it was fully a spiked coffee bar with no mention of gambling machines. I find it odd that now it's a gaming lounge, and I believe in what he said in his police investigation is he would consider maybe having gambling machines in the future, but for amusement purposes only.

Jaime Pappenfuss (Violet Social Club Salon - Owner) 17:15

I think it's Wisconsin's worst kept secret that there are dive bars with gambling machines that pay out. I used to work in a restaurant that was owned by the man who owns Big Daddy games, and I can assure you, people were being paid out, otherwise, what is the point of a business running those games? Mister Boulanger also said that he had a successful business that he was basing this off of. That successful business that Katie asked him about, and he said, "My brother-in-law's successful business: the Boardroom in West Bend." When you look at the Boardroom's Facebook page, the first thing that they advertise is their slots are just like Vegas, with payouts instantly, and you get free drinks while you game. And it is filled with gambling machines.

Jaime Pappenfuss (Violet Social Club Salon - Owner) 18:01

That man, his brother-in-law, his father was jailed in the 90s and early 2000s for operating illegal gambling machines. So, I can't help but feel like this is—

Mayor Jake Woodford 18:13

About 30 seconds remaining.

Jaime Pappenfuss (Violet Social Club Salon - Owner) 18:15

—a terrible attempt at doing this. I worry that it serves no value to the community, and additionally, it's unsafe, because not only will my young stylists and young clients be sharing back hallway isolated bathrooms with Mister Boulanger's bar patrons, also will the minor employees at Uni Uni, and as a whole, I think it's a shady way to do business, and it takes away from the integrity of this community that I love being a part of as a small business owner. Thank you.

[Applause from members of the public]

Mayor Jake Woodford 18:47

All right. Next, I'm having trouble reading the first name, last name, Ronsman. Ellie—I just wanted to make sure I didn't say it wrong. All right. Welcome, Ellie. Your name and address for the record.

Ellie Ronsman (Violet Social Club Salon) 19:01

Elise Ronsman, [XXXXX] in Kaukauna.

Mayor Jake Woodford 19:05

Okay welcome.

Ellie Ronsman (Violet Social Club Salon) 19:07

All right. Hi. I am a stylist for Jamie. I've been working at Violet Social Club since it opened, and I love it there. When we first found out that there was going to be a new business opened, we were told that it was a spiked

coffee bar, and along with everything that she said, we were pretty excited about that. And then all of the other information started to come out about the gambling machines, and it makes me concerned for my safety when I'm working there by myself, which is pretty much all the time at night. And the parking situation is also an issue. We only have like, five spots in the back, and then there's only street parking. So, I just, I imagine that being a mess as well. And the bathrooms are also a situation where there's only two stalls, and I can't imagine sharing them with the people that spend time at the bar next door.

Ellie Ronsman (Violet Social Club Salon) 20:11

And I just think that, after everything that came out about him and his business, which Jamie said, I just don't think that he's a very trustworthy person to have next door. So, I would just—if considering the stipulations about if they do enter gambling machines into the bar, that they would get their liquor license taken away. I think that that would be a good idea to prevent it from happening, because inevitably, I feel like it will happen. Yeah, that's all that I have today. Thank you.

[Applause from members of the public]

Mayor Jake Woodford 20:44

Thank you. Well, we'll refrain from applause, please. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on an item that appears on the agenda but didn't have a chance to sign up? All right with that, then we will close public participation. Move along in our agenda. We have no public hearings and no special resolutions, so we'll establish the order of the day. Alder Siebers.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 21:19

Thank you, Your Honor. Rather than voting against this right now, I'd like to go to Safety and Licensing 24-0420, class B beer license for Dave Boulanger. I'd like to refer it back. And the reason for me referring it back, I voted for this based on stipulations being set. Tonight there's no stipulations before me that I see, and therefore I'm going to refer it back and hope that the next time it appears in committee we have some conditions in writing.

Mayor Jake Woodford 22:00

All right, so this item has previously been referred back. So—

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 22:03

Oh, I'm sorry.

Mayor Jake Woodford 22:03

So, we'll take, we'll take your statement here as a motion. Is there a second? All right, we have a motion and a second to refer back. Is there any discussion on the refer back? All right, hearing none, we have a motion and a second to refer back. Do you have this in the in the system, or can I handle it with a voice vote? Okay, so we have a motion and a second to refer back. All those in favor, please signify by saying, aye. Any opposed? With none opposed, that item will be referred back to safety and licensing committee. So that item will appear on the next Safety and Licensing Committee agenda.