

The Swatara Township Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing for an Inter Municipal Liquor License Transfer for Manuel Ambrocio, 771 Eisenhower Boulevard on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 7:26 p.m., at the Swatara Township Administration Building, 599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

Members of the Board present: Commissioners Richard Boudier, Shaela Ellis, Michael Tuckey, Jeff Varner and Christine Zubeck. Also present: Manager Jim Fosselman, Assistant Manager Kim Kaufman, Solicitor Brandon O'Connor, and Secretary Karen Alleman.

Solicitor O'Connor: Okay, so now is the time and place for the public hearing for inter municipal liquor license transfer applicant Manuel Ambrocio, 771 Eisenhower Boulevard. I see that we are starting to approach the lectern so I will turn it over to the applicant and his attorney.

Applicant's Attorney (Mr. Bugli): Thank you very much Solicitor O'Connor and good evening members of the Board. My name is Matthew Bugli. I am an attorney with the firm of Dethlefs, Pykosh, and Murphy in Camp Hill. I am here with my client Manuel Ambrocio. Mr. Ambrocio is the applicant for the transfer of an already existing liquor license. I will have Mr. Ambrocio answer a few questions but this is pertaining to an establishment that is already operating, El Rancho Restaurant, actually right down the street on Eisenhower Boulevard here. Mr. Ambrocio has started the process and has entered into an agreement of sale for the transfer of a license that is currently in Susquehanna Township along Union Deposit Road. Mr. Ambrocio is seeking to sell alcohol. This is a restaurant license and I have specified in the application to the Township the specific restaurant number. If it is okay with the Board I will have Mr. Ambrocio answer a few questions and then I will offer him up for questions from anybody and then we will entertain public comment.

Solicitor O'Connor: Please

Mr. Bugli: Sounds good. Mr. Ambrocio, could you indicate to the Board of Commissioners and to the public how long you have been involved in the restaurant business.

Mr. Ambrocio: Since I was seventeen.

Mr. Bugli: And how old are you now?

Mr. Ambrocio: Thirty-one.

Mr. Bugli: Okay, and how long have you operated El Rancho Restaurant?

Mr. Ambrocio: Three and one-half years.

Mr. Bugli: Okay, and could you indicate before El Rancho was located here in Swatara Township, could you indicate where it was located previously?

Mr. Ambrocio: El Rancho was located at 210 North Third Street, in Harrisburg, downtown, across the street from the Capital building.

Mr. Bugli: Okay, okay, and as I indicated, you have begun the process with my office and we have been in contact with the Liquor Control Board in gathering all necessary financial documents. I have explained to you the process with regard to going through background checks including information on where you have lived and worked in the past several years as part of a extensive background process that the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board is going to be conducting. This is essentially part one of that two step process as I have explained to you. There was some discussion previously with the previous application with regard to certification. Is that something that you will, you and your employees will have completed at the same time as you are going through with the Liquor Control Board process, understanding that's going to take a little while.

Mr. Ambrocio: Yes, I'm not RAMP certified, but many of my employees are.

Mr. Bugli: Okay, and so your employees and you know, essentially that the two most important things with regard to selling liquor at an establishment like this is, and you are essentially saying that you will comply with all Pennsylvania regulations with regard to the two most important, not serving alcohol to anybody who appears visibly intoxicated, and also to individuals who appear under a certain age. Is that correct?

Mr. Ambrocio: Correct.

Mr. Bugli: And your staff is aware how to ask people for identification and how to spot people that may be visibly intoxicated, is that correct?

Mr. Ambrocio: Correct.

Mr. Bugli: Could you describe for the Board the type of dining atmosphere your restaurant currently is?

Mr. Ambrocio: Yes, it is a family business making Central American cuisine. It is a full service restaurant.

Mr. Bugli: What are the hours of operation for your business?

Mr. Ambrocio: Seven days a week, 11 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Bugli: So this is not a business that is operating into the early morning hours, this is a business that closes at a reasonable time of night?

Mr. Ambrocio: Yes.

Mr. Bugli: And you would describe it as a family atmosphere as they type of place you could bring your kids, your grand kids?

Mr. Ambrocio: Yes.

Mr. Bugli: At this time I would offer any questions from Solicitor O'Connor or from any members of the Board.

Solicitor O'Connor: Sure, I'll get us started. Can you just clarify, have you ever owned or operated under a PLCB Liquor License?

Mr. Ambrocio: No.

Solicitor O'Connor: Despite the lack of a license, have you ever received any citations in your restaurant ownership for serving someone alcohol without a license?

Mr. Ambrocio: No.

Solicitor O'Connor: You did a great job covering my questions so I will move it over to the Board, so President Zubeck...

President Zubeck: I think you did a great job as well. I do have one question, how many employees would you say approximately that are RAMP certified?

Mr. Ambrocio: I would say about five right now.

President Zubeck: Is that like maybe one on each shift?

Mr. Ambrocio: Yes, and eventually I would get the license and everybody would be certified.

Mr. Bugli: And for clarification for the Board, you do not have to be RAMP certified unless you are the one actually serving the alcohol. So if you are a hostess, or back of the house kitchen house you do not need to be RAMP certified.

President Zubeck: Okay, thank you. That's all the questions I have for now.

Solicitor O'Connor: And going down the line...

Commissioner Varner: I have one, I know you said your hours are currently 11 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., do you intend to keep that as the hours if you get the license?

Mr. Ambrocio: If I get the license I will probably extend it to 11 or 12.

Commissioner Varner: Okay, thank you. That's all I have.

Solicitor O'Connor: To my right?

Commissioner Boudier: No.

Solicitor O'Connor: We are going to give the opportunity to open it up to public comment. If any one has questions, comments or concerns, raise a hand and we will call on you to come up to the lectern. Okay, seeing none, I will pass it back to Commissioner Zubeck.

The public hearing concluded at 7:33 p.m.

  
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Karen Alleman, Recording Secretary