

**Minutes**  
**City of St. Charles**  
**Liquor Control Commission Meeting**  
**Monday, May 20, 2024, 4:30 p.m.**  
**Council Chambers, 2 E. Main Street, St. Charles, IL**

**1. Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Pro Tem Gehm at 4:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call.**

**Present:** Spellman, Pietryla

**Absent:** Vitek, Zollers

**3. Motion by Spellman, second by Pietryla, to accept and place on file minutes of the Liquor Control Commission meeting held on April 15, 2024.**

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Spellman, Pietryla; Nays: None. Absent: Vitek, Zollers.

Abstain: None. Commissioner Pro Tem Gehm did not vote.

**Motion Carried**

Commissioner Pro Tem Gehm announced that Item 5 of the agenda regarding a late-night permit application for El Santo Mexican Grill & Cantina will be moved down on the agenda to Item 6.

**4. Recommendation to approve a proposal for a Sound Amplification Permit and a new Class E-1 Temporary Liquor License for the “Hops for Hope 5K” to be held at Mt. St. Mary Park on October 5, 2024.**

Chief Keegan introduced the application and indicated this is a repeat event that will be held October 5, 2024, at Mt. St. Mary Park. This event is sponsored by the Bike Rack and benefits Project Mobility, which is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The 5K will cross Geneva Road into Wheeler Park in Geneva. Police and EMA personnel will be on scene to assist. They expect about 1,000 participants. The event has been held for a number of years, and the organizers do a great job with credentialing participants. Their security and safety plan has been reviewed by the City’s special events committee.

Spellman asked if there were any problems with the event last year.

Chief Keegan responded there were no problems to speak of.

**Motion by Pietryla, second by Spellman, to recommend approval of a Class E-1 Temporary Liquor License for the “Hops for Hope 5K” to be held at Mt. St. Mary Park on October 5, 2024.**

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Spellman, Pietryla; Nays: None; Absent: Vitek, Zollers.  
Abstain: None. Commissioner Pro Tem Gehm did not vote.

**Motion Carried**

**5. Recommendation to approve a proposal for a new Class E-1 Temporary Liquor License for St. John Neumann Catholic Church for Sunday, June 2, 2024.**

Chief Keegan introduced the application and indicated this is also a repeat event that will be held Sunday, June 2, after mass from 12:30 to 3 p.m. This has always been a very well-run event in the past. It is a charity event, with proceeds benefitting the parish.

Spellman asked if there were any problems with the event last year.

Chief Keegan responded that there were no issues with the same event last year.

**Motion by Pietryla, second by Spellman, to recommend approval of a Class E-1 Temporary Liquor License for St. John Neumann Catholic Church for Sunday, June 2, 2024.**

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Spellman, Pietryla; Nays: None. Absent: Vitek, Zollers.  
Abstain: None. Commissioner Pro Tem Gehm did not vote.

**Motion Carried**

**6. Recommendation to approve a 2:00 a.m. Late Night Permit for El Santo Mexican Grill & Cantina in the City of St. Charles for fiscal year 2024/2025.**

Chief Keegan introduced the application and indicated that this request is for the old Spotted Fox Ale House, located at 3516 East Main Street. Marwan Taib is the operator and has renamed the establishment El Santo Mexican Grill and Cantina. The establishment currently has a 1 a.m. late-night permit for this licensing year. As part of his re-concept and re-branding, he is asking for a 2 a.m. permit. Mr. Taib has filed the appropriate paperwork with the City for the name change, which has been processed.

Pietryla asked if the establishment is current with their alcohol tax.

Chief Keegan said that it is current and there are no amounts owed the City.

Pietryla asked about the cost difference between the 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. permits.

Chief Keegan said that the 1 a.m. permit costs \$800, while a 2 a.m. permit costs \$2,300. Mr. Taib did pay the difference of \$1,500 for the 2 a.m. permit.

Spellman asked about other establishments that have 2 a.m. late-night permits and if there was a difference between the businesses that have 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. permits.

Chief Keegan said the main difference is the business plan. In this case, the target audience is a later crowd. St. Charles police officers will be well aware of that and will do their best to make sure that the establishment operates in an efficient and safe manner.

Spellman asked how many establishments have 2 a.m. permits.

Chief Keegan said there are 27 total late-night permits; 13 of those are 1 a.m. permits and 14 are 2 a.m. permits.

Commissioner Pro Tem Gehm asked about the revenue differential between being open until 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. Some people say that it is substantial for the establishment. He knows the business has been struggling and hopes the new concept will help.

Chief Keegan clarified that with a 2 a.m. late-night permit, last call is 1:30 a.m. House lights come on at 1:45 a.m., and the business has to close at 2 a.m. The permit does not mean they can sell liquor up to 2 a.m., it means the hours of operation go until 2 a.m. The Police Department is very strict on that.

**Motion by Spellman, second by Pietryla, to recommend approval of a 2:00 a.m. late-night permit for El Santo Mexican Grill & Cantina in the City of St. Charles for fiscal year 2024/2025.**

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Spellman, Pietryla; Nays: None. Absent: Vitek, Zollers. Abstain: None. Commissioner Pro Tem Gehm did not vote.

**Motion Carried**

7. **Public Comment** - none
8. **Executive Session (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(4))** - none
9. **Adjournment.**

Motion by Spellman, second by Pietryla, to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

**Voice Vote:** Ayes: Spellman, Pietryla; Nays: None; Absent: Vitek, Zollers; Abstain: None. Commissioner Pro Tem Gehm did not vote.

**Motion Carried**