

The City Council met in Regular Session in Council Chambers. Mayor Stadsholt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. City Clerk, Jesse Hall, called the roll and the following Alderpersons answered to their names: Denis Bryant, Bob Cooper, Dan Griffin, Christopher J. Rilea, Richard "Tayler" Shore, James "Gus" Stroh, Ross McDowell and Nick Urish.

A quorum was present. The minutes were recorded by City Clerk, Jesse Hall.

The pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was repeated by all City Officials and guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

DISCUSSION: Julie Morgan Morissette of LuLu's Craft Beverage Co. addressed the City Council with her concerns about increasing the number of Class A liquor licenses. I was born and raised here. I moved away for 30 years and moved back about 6 years ago. I am the owner of Gisela's Haus and LuLu's Craft Beverage Co. I am a CPA and I have an MBA from one of the best business schools in the world. And I tell you that because; starting a new business is not to be taken lightly. 60% of bars and restaurants fail in the first year, and 80% fail within the first five years. So when I contemplated buying that building down there and turning it into a bar. I did my homework. I did a financial projection, but most importantly, I did a competitive analysis because I got the last liquor license here in town, and I was told when they are gone, they're gone and the ordinance was based on population and ours was regressive. And so, based on that limited competition, I spent a quarter of a million dollars in that building and that business. Had I known not even 18 months after I had opened that we would be talking about more liquor licenses, I would have never made that investment. So you can imagine my shock and sense of betrayal. When I heard it through the grapevine that we are now talking about more liquor licenses. I respectfully ask each of you to seriously think about this decision and I respectfully ask you to vote no for more liquor licenses.

ACTION TAKEN: None

DISCUSSION: Vickie Pace Lickiss of Vic's Place also, addressed the City Council about increasing the number of Class A liquor licenses. Very similar to Julie, I was born and raised here. I moved away for 30 years and came back 7 years ago. My husband and I own Vic's Place. I sent a letter via email to the council. The current number of liquor licenses in the city was factored in when we developed our business plan and presented it to the city council last summer. Adding more licenses will affect our business as well as other establishments with current licenses. The city should not create a situation where current businesses are being cannibalized by unnecessary addition of liquor licenses. Per the ordinance, "the number of licenses shall not exceed the proportion of one to every three hundred population of the city". Has the city grown since the last time liquor licenses were added? We would hope that new potential businesses are not receiving favoritism due to personal allegiances that may be held. Tonight we are voicing very strong objections and request the city to not move forward with changing the ordinance to add more liquor licenses.

ACTION TAKEN: None

DISCUSSION: Todd Schaeffer of Babe's and The Stag Tap also, addressed the City Council about increasing the number of Class A liquor licenses. It has come to my attention that there is a vote to take place to increase the amount of Class A liquor licenses to be issued by the city. I understand that there was a committee meeting and the first reading has already happened. I know that myself and at least a few other licensees would have been at the committee meeting if we had known. My wife and I have talked to a few of the other licensees and the answer is always the same, Why? Why does the city think there is a need? The majority of the licensees have put a significant amount of money into their new business or to upgrade their existing facilities. These decisions were made based on eleven licenses being available. To increase the number of licenses by over 30% will make us all reevaluate our business plans. I have done a bit of research on other communities to see what they are doing, the results that I will list include 2020 census numbers and the number of class A license issued. Beardstown - 5,951 population - 11 Class A license. Rushville - 3,005 population - 1 for each 2000 people and 1 additional. Canton - 13,242 population - 9 Class A license. Galena 3,308 population - 10 Class A license (100's of visitors on a daily basis). Havana 2,963 population - 11 license now, voting to increase to 15. I hope you all will take these numbers into consideration before voting. "It feels like someone just asked you, and you were afraid to say no," Schaeffer said. Instead of the city issuing new licenses, he thought new

businesses should do what the Lickiss family did, and see if someone wants to sell their business. "That's the way it has been done in the past. They can just come in and say Hey – are you interested in selling? I'd love to be in this business,' but nobody has come to me," Schaeffer said. He added a recent survey showed people enjoyed Havana's live music events. "Every time we do that it is a gamble. Mostly we break even, and it's a lot of extra work," he said. We can't bring music to town if the pie is too small," he continued. "Somebody is not going to make it. That is the bottom line."

ACTION TAKEN: None

DISCUSSION: Kelli Schaeffer of Babe's addressed the City Council. I moved here to this community 30 years ago, I chose to be here. Julie, Vickie, and Todd all made wonderful points, which I agree with. Right now, I do not understand the need for it. I do not understand where these requests are coming from or really, why they are being entertained at this point when we have a set number, but they are. They have touched on how it will affect all of us. I agree on that, but I just wanted to stand up and make sure my voice was heard too. I am asking you each to vote no on this.

ACTION TAKEN: None

DISCUSSION: T.J. Painter addressed the City Council. It is not the goal of the liquor licenses to limit commerce. The goal is simply to make sure that everyone is following the rules, that they are doing things the right way.

ACTION TAKEN: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DISCUSSION: Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes of February 20, 2024.

ACTION TAKEN: There being none, the minutes are approved as submitted.

FINANCE REPORT

DISCUSSION: Mayor Stadsholt entertained a motion to approve the Finance Report as submitted. Alderperson Stroh made the motion, seconded by Alderperson Shore.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any questions or corrections to the Finance Report. There being none, the motion passed by the following vote:

Voting Yes: Griffin, Rilea, Shore, Stroh, McDowell, Urish, Bryant and Cooper

Voting No: None

CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION: Mayor Stadsholt entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Alderperson McDowell made the motion, seconded by Alderperson Cooper.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any questions or corrections to the Consent Agenda. There being none, the motion passed by the following vote:

Voting Yes: Urish, Bryant, Cooper, Griffin, Rilea, Shore, Stroh and McDowell

Voting No: None

MAYOR'S REPORT

DISCUSSION: Mayor Stadsholt reported on the following items:

- We have been busy with our city buildings. Every Tuesday we have senior citizens dinners at the Riverside Club. Starting today, we have the City Center being used by the county for training of the judges for the March 19, 2024, General Primary Election.
- Today, we had a meeting with interested people from C-1-A Business District to hear more about the Plum Street Project. We were lucky to have Keith Plavic and Christopher Sanchez – Maurer-Stutz, Inc. explain the Plum Street Project as they did two weeks ago at the public meeting.

ACTION TAKEN: None

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

DISCUSSION: City Clerk, Jesse Hall, reminded the City Council that the first reading of Ordinance 1482, the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 would be on March 19, 2024.

ACTION TAKEN: None

CITY TREASURER'S REPORT

DISCUSSION: No report
ACTION TAKEN: None

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

DISCUSSION: No report
ACTION TAKEN: None

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

DISCUSSION: No report
ACTION TAKEN: None

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

DISCUSSION: No report
ACTION TAKEN: None

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

DISCUSSION: No report
ACTION TAKEN: None

FIRE MARSHAL/ZONING OFFICER REPORT

DISCUSSION: No report
ACTION TAKEN: None

FINANCE AND PURCHASING

DISCUSSION: No report
ACTION TAKEN: None

HEALTH AND SANITATION

DISCUSSION: No report
ACTION TAKEN: None

LICENSES, ORDINANCE AND LEGAL

DISCUSSION: Alderperson Rilea made a motion to approve the Zoning Board of Appeals recommendation. A variance to Ordinance 17.04.050, Ground Floor Living. The variance be limited to the property located at 108 North Orange Street Havana, IL 62644. The variance be granted for temporary accommodations only, seconded by Alderperson McDowell.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any questions. There being none, the motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Yes: Bryant, Cooper, Griffin, Rilea, Shore, Stroh, McDowell and Urish

Voting No: None

DISCUSSION: Alderperson Urish made a motion to table Ordinance 1481, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 5.24 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Havana, Mason County, Illinois until March 19, 2024, seconded by Alderperson Griffin.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any questions. There being none, the motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Yes: Bryant, Cooper, Griffin, Rilea, Shore, Stroh, McDowell and Urish

Voting No: None

PLANNING

DISCUSSION: Alderperson Urish made a motion to approve ABM Masonry LLC to do the welcome sign posts in the amount of \$8,938.00, seconded by Alderperson Cooper.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any questions. There being none, the motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Yes: Cooper, Griffin, Rilea, Shore, Stroh, McDowell, Urish and Bryant

Voting No: None

PROPERTY AND ZONING

DISCUSSION: No report

ACTION TAKEN: None

PUBLIC SAFETY

DISCUSSION: No report

ACTION TAKEN: None

PUBLIC WORKS

DISCUSSION: Alderperson Bryant made a motion to approve the 2024 Motor Fuel Tax Resolution 03-24, seconded by Alderperson Rilea.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any questions. There being none, the motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Yes: Shore, Stroh, McDowell, Urish, Bryant, Cooper, Griffin and Rilea

Voting No: None

PERSONNEL

DISCUSSION: No report

ACTION TAKEN: None

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

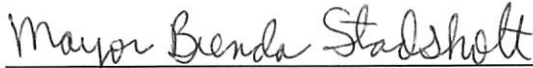
DISCUSSION: Todd Schaeffer suggested issuing Class C Liquor Licenses, instead of amending the ordinance, since there are Class C Liquor Licenses available.

ACTION TAKEN: None

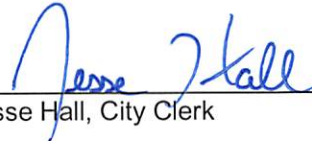
ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION: Mayor Stadsholt entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Alderperson McDowell and seconded by Alderperson Shore.

ACTION TAKEN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.



Brenda Stadsholt, Mayor



Jesse Hall, City Clerk

- Guests:**
- Matt Fliege
 - Jeremiah Hindahl
 - Alex Noble
 - Jay Sarff
 - Wendy Martin
 - Todd Schaeffer
 - Kelli Schaeffer
 - Julie Morgan Morissette
 - Vickie Lickiss
 - T.J. Painter
 - Gage Shawgo
 - Linda Shawgo-Leach