

A special meeting of the Myerstown Borough Council was held on Monday, June 25, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room at the Myerstown Community Center, the President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

Present were: President Bryan L. Rittle, Council Members Eric L. Powell, Ronald L. Ream, Jeffrey L. Thomas, and Dana Reich, Mayor Gloria R. Ebling, Solicitor Frederick Wolf, Assistant Manager Barry A. Ludwig, and Manager Michael R. McKenna. Absent were Vice-President Michael D. Behm, and President Pro Tem Park W. Haverstick, II.

The President of Council opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Solicitor Frederick Wolf took the floor to explain to the public that this meeting was a hearing to approve Resolution 2018-10, Application of FFBS, Inc for an Economic Development License to be Issued to Allow the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages as Authorized by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board for the Restaurant Business to be Located at 2 E Main Ave, Myerstown Borough, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania.

Steve Hansen of FFBS, Inc took the floor and proceeded to give a history of his company, including a description of two other restaurants he owns, explaining that the restaurant at 2 E Main Ave, called Dogoods, would be similar. Mr. Hansen purchased the property in 2016, and has renovated 4 apartments, including installing a sprinkler system throughout the building. Mr. Hansen answered several questions from Borough Council about the type of establishment and how it would be operated. Mr. Hansen also explained that the restaurant would be an economic benefit to the Borough, bringing consumers and spending dollars into the downtown for other businesses, providing a service for local residents and workers, hiring approximately 25 full time employees, and improving the property value of his parcel.

Kenneth McMahon of 2 E Main Ave stated that he lives in a newly renovated apartment in Mr. Hansen's building. He is a part-time resident whose primary residence is out-of-state, but says Mr. Hansen did a great job on the apartment renovations and he trusts that this restaurant will be of high quality.

Dane Bicher of 425 Broad St asked about the liquor license rules in Pennsylvania and whether population played a factor. Solicitor Frederick Wolf explained the difference between a standard license and an economic development liquor license.

Anna Gettler, owner of Main Street Jewelry stated that this restaurant would be nothing but a positive for Myerstown. She believes parking will not be an issue. She came to support Mr. Hansen because she believes it will help the downtown.

Chris Layser of 131 W Main Ave stated that this restaurant would do nothing but help the downtown and the Borough. He stated he has been to Mr. Hansen's other establishments and they are of high quality. He thinks Borough Council should approve the application.

Sam Moyer of 107 E Washington Ave asked if the license would stay in Myerstown if Mr. Hansen sold the building. Solicitor Frederick Wolf explained that it would stay at the location, it would not go with Mr. Hansen.

Jeffrey L. Thomas moved, and Eric L. Powell seconded to approve Resolution 2018-10. On a roll call vote: Bryan L. Rittle – yes; Eric L. Powell – yes; Ronald L. Ream – yes; Jeffrey L. Thomas – yes; Dana Reich – yes. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

The President asked if there were any additional comments for the good of the borough. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Dana Reich moved and Jeffrey L. Thomas seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael R. McKenna, MPA
Borough Manager/Secretary