



**TENNESSEE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION
AGENDA MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
1:00 p.m.**

The November 2020 meeting was held on November 19, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Nashville, TN. Chairman Skiles, Commissioner Roberts, and Commissioner Tomita were present. In attendance on behalf of TABC staff were the following: Director Thomas, Assistant Director Blackwell, and Chief Law Enforcement Officer Bond Tubbs.

Pursuant to T.C.A. §8-44-108, meetings may be conducted permitting participation of electronic or other means of communication.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2020, COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Discussion/Action Taken: Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.

2. RETAIL MATTERS

**1. THE COPPER STILL WINE & SPIRITS
GALLATIN, TENNESSEE (SUMNER COUNTY)**

Applicant: Red Fox Mixology LLC
Member(s): Adiene Wade (100%)

Current licensee: Z-Grape, LLC d/b/a The Copper Still Wine & Spirits¹
Proposed licensee: Red Fox Mixology LLC d/b/a The Copper Still Wine & Spirits

Before the Commission is a request for approval of a retail package store licensee to be located at 1176 Long Hollow Pike Gallatin, TN 37066. The applicant is acquiring the package store from the existing licensee owned by Z-Grape, LLC². The TABC staff recommends conditional approval of the license subject to:

¹ License no. RTLRPS-SUM-1815066

² In accordance with Tennessee law, sellers are to transfer title and possession of the liquor inventory to the applicant via TABC licensed wholesalers' involvement.



- a. agent report
- b. license fee

Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended conditional approval subject to the agent report and payment of the license fee. Commissioner Tomita moved approval subject to the agent report and payment of the license fee and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.

2. HOUSE OF SPIRITS TRENTON, TENNESSEE (GIBSON COUNTY)

Applicant: SD TRENTON, INC.
Member(s): Minesh Patel (100%)

Current licensee: ASSOCIATES DEVELOPMENT, INC. d/b/a House of Spirits³
Proposed licensee: SD TRENTON, INC. d/b/a House of Spirits

Before the Commission is a request for approval of a retail package store licensee to be located at 408 E Eaton St., Trenton, TN 38382. The applicant is acquiring the package store from the existing licensee owned by ASSOCIATES DEVELOPMENT, INC.⁴ The TABC staff recommends conditional approval of the license subject to:

- a. deed after closing
- b. license fee

³ License no. RTLRPS-GIB-1814641

⁴ In accordance with Tennessee law, sellers are to transfer title and possession of the liquor inventory to the applicant via TABC licensed wholesalers' involvement.



Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended conditional approval subject to the deed after closing and payment of the license fee. Commissioner Roberts moved approval subject to the deed after closing and payment of the license fee and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.

**3. X-PRESS WINE & LIQUOR
PIKEVILLE, TENNESSEE (BLEDSOE COUNTY)**

Applicant: Shivaram2020 Inc
Member(s): Mahendrakumar Patel (100%)

Current licensee: Sonya Hankins Nale d/b/a Sonya's X-Press Wine & Liquor⁵
Proposed licensee: Shivaram2020 Inc d/b/a X-Press Wine & Liquor

Before the Commission is a request for approval of a retail package store licensee to be located at 931 US-127 BYP Pikeville, TN 37367. The applicant is acquiring the package store from the existing licensee owned by Sonya Hankins Nale⁶. The TABC staff recommends conditional approval of the license subject to:

- a. inspection
- b. deed after closing
- c. license fee

⁵ License no. RTLPS-BLE-1809406

⁶ In accordance with Tennessee law, sellers are to transfer title and possession of the liquor inventory to the applicant via TABC licensed wholesalers' involvement.



Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended conditional approval subject to inspection, the deed after closing and payment of the license fee. Commissioner Tomita moved approval subject to inspection, the deed after closing and payment of the license fee and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.

**4. BYPASS LIQUOR
COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE (MAURY COUNTY)**

Applicant: Hanu Ganu, LLC
Member(s): Urvish Patel (49%). Falguni Patel (34%),
Bhupendra Patel (17%)

Current licensee: BY-PASS DISCOUNT LIQUORS, LLC d/b/a
BY-PASS DISCOUNT LIQUORS⁷
Proposed licensee: Hanu Ganu, LLC d/b/a Bypass Liquor

Before the Commission is a request for approval of a retail package store licensee to be located at 1325 S James M. Campbell Blvd., Columbia, TN 38401. The applicant is acquiring the package store from the existing licensee owned by BY-PASS DISCOUNT LIQUORS, LLC⁸. The TABC staff recommends conditional approval of the license subject to:

- a. agent review
- b. deed after closing
- c. license fee

⁷ License no. RTLRPS-MAU-1816263

⁸ In accordance with Tennessee law, sellers are to transfer title and possession of the liquor inventory to the applicant via TABC licensed wholesalers' involvement.



Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended conditional approval subject to the agent review, the deed after closing and payment of the license fee. Commissioner Roberts moved approval subject to the agent review, the deed after closing and payment of the license fee and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.

**5. WHITEHAVEN LIQUORS
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE (SHELBY COUNTY)**

Applicant: Clara Vescovo
Member(s): Clara Vescovo (100%)

Current licensee: Estate of Louis J Vescovo d/b/a Whitehaven Liquors⁹
Proposed licensee: Clara Vescovo d/b/a Whitehaven Liquors

Before the Commission is a request for approval of a retail package store licensee to be located at 1608 E. Brooks Rd., Memphis, TN 38116. The applicant is acquiring the package store from the existing licensee owned by Estate of Louis J Vescovo¹⁰. The TABC staff recommends conditional approval of the license subject to payment of the license fee.

Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended conditional approval subject to payment of the license fee. Chairman Skiles asked about the new owner having dementia being mentioned from one employee at the store. By phone, Commission Counsel member Joshua Stepp responded by saying that the TABC reviewed the application and discussed this with the attorney, who is a family member that went through two years of probate to get things squared away. Chairman Skiles had no concerns after hearing Stepp's response. Commissioner Tomita moved approval subject to payment of the license fee and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.

⁹ License no. RTLRPS-SHE-1924511

¹⁰ In accordance with Tennessee law, sellers are to transfer title and possession of the liquor inventory to the applicant via TABC licensed wholesalers' involvement.



**6. GROG SHOPPE
COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE (MAURY COUNTY)**

Applicant:	RAJIPO INC	
Shareholders:	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	Prakash Patel (40%)	Prakash Patel (40%)
	Falguni Patel (30%)	Falguni Patel (30%)
	Pranay Patel (30%)	Urvish Patel (30%)

The retail package store doing business at 1129 Trotwood Ave., Suite 29, Columbia, TN 38401 is requesting approval of change in ownership. One of the shareholders is selling his interests to a new partner. The TABC staff recommends approval of the change in ownership.

Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended approval of the change in ownership. Commissioner Roberts moved approval and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.

**7. BROWN JUG LIQUOR STORE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE (SHELBY COUNTY)**

Applicant: Brown Jug Liquor Store Inc.

Retail package store licensee no. RTLPS-SHE-1823404 located at 2375 Summer Ave., Memphis, TN 38112 is requesting to expand their premises. The store is expanding into the adjacent tenant space to occupy the whole building. The TABC staff recommends conditional approval of the expansion subject to an inspection.

Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended approval of the expansion subject to an inspection. Commissioner Tomita moved approval subject to an inspection and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.



**8. ROCKY TOP WINE AND LIQUORS
ROCKY TOP, TENNESSEE (ANDERSON COUNTY)**

Applicant:	Jai Hanumaan Inc	
Shareholders:	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	Bhargavkumar Patel (90%)	Bhargavkumar Patel (80%)
	Vasantkumar Patel (10%)	Vasantkumar Patel (10%)
		Trupal Patel (10%)

The retail package store doing business at 625 N Main St., Rocky Top, TN 37769 is requesting approval of change in ownership. One of the shareholders is selling 10% of his interests to a new partner. The TABC staff recommends approval of the change in ownership.

Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended approval of the change in ownership. Commissioner Roberts moved approval and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.

**9. NATALIES LIQUOR WAREHOUSE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE (SHELBY COUNTY)**

Applicant:	Natalies Liquor Warehouse LLC	
Shareholders:	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	Jerry Burrell (100%)	Chris Robertson (100%)

The retail package store doing business at 1009 North Germantown Pkwy, Memphis, TN 38018 is requesting approval of change in ownership. The current shareholder is selling all his interests to a new shareholder. The TABC staff recommends approval of the change in ownership.



Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended approval of the change in ownership. Commissioner Tomita moved approval and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.

3. WINERY MATTERS

1. NICKLE RIDGE WINERY GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE (GREENE COUNTY)

Applicant: Danebeez Corporation

Before the Commission is a request for approval of a winery licensee to be located at 142 Depot St., Greeneville, TN 37745. The TABC staff recommends conditional approval of the winery subject to payment of the license fee.

Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended approval subject to payment of the license fee. Commissioner Roberts moved approval subject to payment of the license fee and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.



4. SATELLITE FACILITY MATTERS

1. **VINTAGE WINERY
COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE (MAURY COUNTY)**

Applicant: Crown Winery, LLC

Before the Commission is a request for approval of a satellite facility license to be located at 616 N Main St., Columbia, TN 38401. The TABC staff recommends conditional approval of the satellite facility subject to:

- a. certificate of occupancy
- b. license fee

Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended approval subject to the certificate of occupancy and payment of the license fee. Commissioner Tomita moved approval subject to the certificate of occupancy and payment of the license fee and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.



5. MANUFACTURER MATTERS

1. **B.R. DISTILLING COMPANY MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE (SHELBY COUNTY)**

Applicant: Big River Distilling Company, LLC

Shareholders: <u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Alexander A. Folk (0.9%)	Alexander A. Folk (0.9%)
Frank L. Watson Trust (17%)	Frank L. Watson Trust (17%)
Headwater Holdings (43.08%)	Headwater Holdings (43.08%)
Robert C.M. Williams (10.09%)	Robert C.M. Williams (10.09%)
Robert DelPriore (28.93%)	DelPriore Family Trust (28.93%)

The manufacturer doing business at 802 Royal Ave., Memphis, TN 38107 is requesting approval of a change in ownership. One of the shareholders is assigning all his ownership to a trust. The TABC staff recommends approval of the change in ownership at the manufacturer.

Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended approval of the change in ownership. Commissioner Roberts moved approval and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.



**2. CHATTANOOGA WHISKEY
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE (HAMILTON COUNTY)**

Applicant: TNSH, LLC

Shareholders: <u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
TNSH, LLC (100%)	Sakura Experimental Trust (8.5%)

The manufacturer doing business at 1439 Market St., Chattanooga, TN 37402 is requesting approval of a change in ownership. Sakura Experimental Trust will become a new 8.558% owner of Tennessee Stillhouse Holdings, LLC, the 100% parent company of the licensee, TNSH, LLC. The TABC staff recommends approval of the change in ownership of the manufacturer.

Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended approval of the change in ownership. Commissioner Tomita moved approval and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.

6. WHOLESALER MATTERS

**1. ADVINTAGE DISTRIBUTING OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE (DAVIDSON COUNTY)**

Applicant: VINTAGE PURSUITS LLC

Before the Commission is a request for approval of a wholesaler to be located at 220 Cumberland Bnd, Nashville, TN 37228. The TABC staff recommends conditional approval of the wholesaler subject to:

- a. inspection
- b. license fee



Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas summarized the request and recommended conditional approval subject to inspection and payment of the license fee. Commissioner Roberts moved approval subject to inspection and payment of the license fee and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.

**2. DISBELEF
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE (SHELBY COUNTY)**

Applicant: DisBelef, LLC

Before the Commission is a request for approval of a wholesaler to be located at 2165 Spicer Cv, Suite 13, Memphis, TN 38134. The TABC staff recommends conditional approval of the wholesaler subject to payment of the license fee.

Discussion/Action Taken: After explaining that the applicant had resolved a matter pursuant to an agreed order, Director Thomas summarized the request and that recommended conditional approval subject to payment of the license fee. Commissioner Tomita asked about the agreed order and any policy on a missed payment from the agreed order. By phone, Commission Counsel member Ryan Mercurio, who had worked with the applicant on the agreed order, responded by saying that the TABC would revoke their license if a payment was missed and then file a notice of hearing. Commissioner Tomita moved approval subject to payment of the license fee and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with three ayes.



7. MISCELLANEOUS

- Director's Update

Discussion/Action Taken: Director Thomas updated the Commission on a couple of items. Director Thomas discussed statutes and policies related to minor compliance checks after receiving a few questions.

- Law Enforcement Update

Discussion/Action Taken: CLEO Tubbs updated the Commission on enforcement activity since the last meeting including statistics on the number of inspections conducted, citations issued, fine amounts, minor compliance checks and compliance rate, seizures, and personnel news. The reported figures extremely concerned the TABC commissioners and staff. The data revealed out of 261 minor compliance checks conducted between October 22 and November 18, 2020, only 74% refused to sell to a minor attempting to purchase alcohol. Director Thomas responded by saying, "We hope these low numbers are a result of COVID-19's market disruptions and not a trend. We know the industry has lost some experienced staff. This year has been very tough for our licensees, and I have faith we will get this turned around. The health of the industry relies on our licensees complying with state law." Tubbs also mentioned upcoming liquor lot auctions the TABC will post online soon. And finally, Regulatory Officer Mikayla Amundson was sworn in as a Special Agent for the Nashville District by Chairman Skiles.

8. NEXT MEETING - Tuesday, December 15 @ 1:00PM (TENTATIVE)

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Thursday, January 28, 2021 @ 1:00PM (TENTATIVE)



**APPROVED FOR ENTRY UPON THE MINUTE BOOKS OF THE TENNESSEE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
COMMISSION THIS THE 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2020.**

Commissioner

Director