

Special Meeting March 3, 2025
Liquor License Transfer

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Ruszkowski 7:00pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Lesko to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barrick, Lasko, Stevenson, Davis, Barnes, Czekanski, Wojnar, and Phillabaum. Mayor Bailey was present. Solicitor Mlakar and Solicitor Leechalk were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

Solicitor will now conduct the hearing.

Solicitor Mlakar – The purpose of this hearing is for a future Municipal Transfer of a Liquor License pursuant of Section 461 B.3 of the Liquor Code of the Commonwealth of PA, as amended. MIJAC Enterprises, LLC, proposes to transfer an existing liquor license designated as Liquor License No. R-13454, which was located in the Township of Salem, having an address of 6543 Route 22, Suite 101-103, Delmont, Pennsylvania, which said license is in safe-keeping and is owned by Grand Cents, Inc., to a premises located within the County of Westmoreland, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with an address of 202 North Diamond Street, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. As a little bit of housekeeping, we will make it part of the record, the affidavit of this public hearing was advertised in the Daily Courier on the 11th day of February, 2025 and the 18th day of February, 2025. We will make that and the bill from the Daily Courier as part of the record and also it should be noted that the sum of \$312.40 which was the advertising cost has been paid by the applicant. So, there are no additional costs or fees to the applicant. Mr. Nichols, I understand you represent the applicant?

Mr. Chris Nichols - Yes Mr. Solicitor. Mr. Solicitor, Madame Solicitor, Madame President, and members of Council, my name is Chris Nichols. I am here on behalf of my father Gregory Nichols representing MIJAC Enterprises. As your solicitor explained we are here for an intermunicipal hearing under the Liquor Code a license is eligible to be transferred between Municipalities if it's been in its Municipality for at least 5 years. At this hearing Council has to determine whether the transfer of this license into the Borough of Mt. Pleasant would be averse to the health, safety, and morals of the citizens of Mt. Pleasant. However, that is not the last step, even if Council approves the transfer this evening, that's just the beginning of the process for our clients. Our clients, MIJAC Enterprises LLC, which is comprised of Jackie and Mike Jaffree's, who are seated behind me, would then apply to the Liquor Control Board for the transfer of the license. I'm sure everyone here has seen those orange placards that people put up in the windows. That is advertisement for anyone who wants to object to the license. The Liquor Control Board would then appoint an investigator that would go out to the premises, make sure the premises is suitable for a Liquor License, to make sure these two individuals are people of good repute and eligible for a Liquor License, and only then would the license actually be approved. I do have Mike and Jackie Jaffree here tonight. I would call briefly, Mr. Solicitor, Jackie Jaffree just to answer a few questions.

Solicitor Mlakar – Anybody that's going to testify has got to be sworn in. (Solicitor Mlakar swore in Jackie Jaffree)

Mr. Chris Nichols – Will you state your name please?

Jackie Jaffree – Jackie Jaffree.

Mr. Chris Nichols – Ms. Jaffree, are you in fact one of the members of MIJAC Enterprises LLC?

Jackie Jaffree – Yes

Mr. Chris Nichols – And is Mike Jaffree, your husband, the other one?

Jackie Jaffree – Yes

Mr. Chris Nichols – You are here asking Council to approve the Intermunicipal Transfer of this Liquor License, is that correct?

Jackie Jaffree – Yes

Mr. Chris Nichols – I should note for Council that these two individuals own and operate two other locations of Jaffree’s Restaurant, one in Latrobe and one in Hempfield Township, both very successful restaurants. I’m going to show you a copy of a menu. Is that a menu from one of the other two restaurants?

Jackie Jaffree – This is the first draft of the menu for the Mt. Pleasant restaurant.

Mr. Chris Nichols – Ok, so that’s the first draft of the proposed restaurant here.

Jackie Jaffree – Yes.

Mr. Chris Nichols – Can you describe briefly the premises for Council?

Jackie Jaffree – So, it will mostly be a sit-down restaurant. There is a bar in there, but our premise will be mostly for families and people in the community to come in and eat. A destination place for parties, baptisms, christenings, baby showers, things like that.

Mr. Chris Nichols – Is this the old Leo’s restaurant?

Jackie Jaffree – Correct

Mr. Chris Nichols – And are you going to be operating this premises as a restaurant rather than a bar?

Jackie Jaffree – Correct

Mr. Chris Nichols – So, the service of alcohol will be as a convenience to your customers with there meals. Correct?

Jackie Jaffree – Correct

Mr. Chris Nichols – Can you tell Council what hours you will be operating?

Jackie Jaffree – I will open daily at 11, possibly earlier on Sundays in the future and the kitchen will close around 9 and 10 P.M.

Mr. Chris Nichols – I don’t think I have any other questions. I will note for the record, incase Council, I didn’t say before, this is a restaurant Liquor License as I’m sure your solicitor made you familiar with the fact that it is necessary for these people to have food and seating for 30 on the premises. So, it’s a restaurant rather than a bar. I don’t have any other questions for my client. I would open it up for questions from Council.

Solicitor Mlakar - The other thing is are you going to be doing business as Jaffree’s Bar or are you going to have a new name?

Jackie Jaffree – It will be The Tuskin Table and Tavern – Jaffree’s Restrauant.

Councilman Davis- So will you be keeping the bar open after the restaurant?

Jackie Jaffree – I would say it would just be while people are there but it will not be a late bar.

Solicitor Mlakar - Any other questions from Council? No?

Mr. Chris Nichols – Mr. Solicitor, I have Mike Jaffree here too and believe his testimony if good too. With that we would rest.

Solicitor Mlakar - And then based upon that the hearing will be closed. We will go into executive session so I can advise the Council on what the law is on this matter.

Mr. Chris Nichols – Thank you.

Solicitor Mlakar - For the record during the executive session, I explained to Council what their options were. It has been placed on the agenda for consideration pursuant of the advertisement that was placed in the paper. So, we will be acting on that.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko to reconvene the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 9-0.

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adjourn public hearing. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Wojnar. Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting Adjourned 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lesko
Borough Secretary

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Special Meeting March 3, 2025
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