

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER HEARING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**

Council met in Council Chambers for a hearing regarding the transfer of a Liquor License on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. Mr. Perry called the hearing to order at 5:37 p.m.

The current owner of the license is Georgetown Deli & Beer LLC, located in Wilkes-Barre Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. The proposed purchaser of the liquor license is El Mariachi Juarez LLC., 789 North Locust Street, Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Council President James Perry, Council Vice President Anthony Colombo, and Council Members Allison Barletta, Mark Ondishin, and Jack Mundie were present. Also present were Atty. Sean Logsdon and Dan Lynch. Attorney Baranko representing the law firm of Slusser Law Firm, was also present.

Mr. Perry gave a brief description of the proposed transfer of a Liquor License, Number R-16106, from Wilkes-Barre Township to Hazleton City.

Atty. Joseph Baranko stated he is representing the interest of Demetrio Juarez; his business is El Mariachi LLC. He is operating the El Mariachi Restaurant on Locust Street, at this point, and has been within the community, well over 20 years. He moved into the former Sisters Restaurant and has been operating at of this building since then. He stated the owner of the Wilkes-Barre license, Mr. Krugel is present. He said the license is being transferred to the Locust Street facility.

Demetrio Juarez said his business address is 789 North Locust Street, Hazleton, PA. He is a cook and owner of the El Mariachi Restaurant. He said his business serves Mexican food. He has been in operation for 3 years at the Locust Street establishment. He has been on Alter Street for 16 years, with a total of 20 years in the City of Hazleton. He is open Wednesdays through Mondays, closed on Tuesdays. His hours of operation are from 11:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. He has ten employees, including his family. He does both in house dining and takeout food. He said the reason for obtaining a liquor license is to improve his business and customers always ask for liquor. He said there is off-street parking. Juarez stated he has never had a liquor license in the past.

Mundie asked how many parking spots Juarez has in the back. Juarez stated about twenty. He said he will expand his hours when he gets his liquor license. Mundie stated his food is very good. Perry agreed. He said he has a good reputation.

Perry asked if the liquor will be served with the customer's meal. Juarez said yes. Perry asked if there will be a takeout of liquor. Juarez said yes. Mundie asked if this is allowed with this liquor license. Mr. Krugel said, "I believe it is". He said there is 100 ounces of alcohol allowed for takeout "at a time".

Atty. Logsdon asked if it is not "just for spirits, but for beer and wine". Mundie said it is an "everything" license. Krugel (*inaudible*). Mundie asked if he applied for a BYOB permit. Juarez said no.

Perry asked how fast this license would take effect. Atty. Baranko stated it would take about 4-6 weeks, if not longer, for approval from the LCB.

Mundie asked if Juarez got any complaints about parking. Juarez stated no. Mundie stated the LCB's laws allow the establishments to serve until 2:00 a.m.

Perry opened up the matter to the public for any comments or recommendations. No comments were received.

Atty. Logsdon stated there are no zoning issues.

Perry said city council will consider the request, and vote on the same, during the regular meeting, which will start shortly.

Perry adjourned the Liquor License Transfer Hearing at 5:50 p.m.