



City of Franklin

109 3rd Ave S
Franklin, TN 37064
(615) 791-3217

Meeting Minutes

Beer Board

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

4:00 PM

Williamson County
Auditorium

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jason Potts called the meeting to order at 04:00 PM

Board Members Present: Clyde Barnhill, Jason Potts, Greg Caesar

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jessica Davey, Blake Harper, Sarah Schilling

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

1. **Consideration Of Changes In Agenda And Setting The Agenda**
 - i. **Discussion Of Removal Of Items From Consent/Changes Not Requiring A Vote**
 - ii. **Proposed Changes To The Agenda**
 - iii. **Approval Of Agenda As Submitted Or Changed**

Sponsors:

A motion was made by Vice Chair Greg Caesar, seconded by Alderman Clyde Barnhill to Approve the Agenda as Submitted. The motion passed 3-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Open for citizens to be heard on any issue or concern, including those related to items on the agenda. Please submit a Speaker Card at the beginning of the meeting if you would like to address the Board/Commission. If you would like to speak on an agenda item, the Chair will hold your comment until the public comment period associated with the item. As provided by law, Boards/Commissions shall make no decisions or consideration of action of citizen comments for items not on the agenda, except to refer the matter to the City Administrator/Staff for administrative consideration, or to a schedule the matter for consideration at a later date. Those addressing the Board/Commission are requested to come to the microphone and identify themselves by name and address for the official record. The Chair may restrict the period for public comment, including the length of the public comment period, the number of individuals who can speak and the length of time each individual may speak. When time allows, the standard individual public comment time is two minutes.)

Comments on agenda items may be made in person or by emailing recorder@franklintn.gov before noon on the day of the meeting. Comments will be submitted for the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. **Consideration Of Approval Of Minutes**
May 13, 2025 Beer Board

Sponsors:

A motion was made by Alderman Clyde Barnhill, seconded by Vice Chair Greg Caesar to Approve the May 13, 2025 Beer Board Minutes. The motion passed 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS**3. Consideration Of Application Of Little Hats Cool Springs, LLC, D/B/A Little Hats Italian Market, 980 Meridian Boulevard, Franklin, TN 37067, Andrew Hurst-Dodd, Managing Agent, For On Premises Consumption****Sponsors:**

Andrew Hurst-Dodd, owner of Little Hats Italian Market, was in attendance to answer any questions from the Board. He explained that this is not the first location of this business in middle Tennessee, so he is familiar with the state-mandated training for alcohol sale and consumption. They are seeking a beer permit in order to sell beer on premises. Ms. Davey explained that this application is for a new business in Franklin.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Greg Caesar, seconded by Alderman Clyde Barnhill to Approve the Beer Permit. The motion passed 3-0.

4. Consideration Of Application Of Paddle Dog Adventures, LLC, D/B/A The Salty Taco, 401 Cheltenham Avenue, Franklin, TN 37064, Jack Abrams, Managing Agent, For On Premises Consumption**Sponsors:**

Jack Abrams, managing agent, and Ginna Burrell, legal representation for The Salty Taco, were in attendance to answer any questions from the Board. Ms. Burrell explained that Mr. Abrams will be running the poolside café. All staff will be trained and licensed with the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Ms. Davey explained that this application is for a new business in Franklin. This business is located at the pool in Westhaven where there was an existing restaurant.

Vice Chair Caesar asked if this restaurant is seasonal?

Answer: Mr. Abrams explained that it is open concurrently with the Westhaven pool schedule. Hence, it will close in September.

Chair Potts asked if the lifeguards on staff had been made aware that The Salty Taco will be serving alcohol to pool patrons.

Answer: Yes.

He followed up by asking how they plan to ID patrons by the pool to prevent serving people who are underage.

Answer: According to their policy, every patron who appears under 30 years of age, will be required to show ID prior to purchasing purchase an alcoholic beverage.

A motion was made by Alderman Clyde Barnhill, seconded by Vice Chair Greg Caesar to Approve the Beer Permit Contingent Upon Approval of the Certificate of Occupancy. The motion passed 3-0.

5. Consideration Of Application Of B & R Restaurant, LLC, D/B/A Franklin Chop House, 1101 Murfreesboro Road, Franklin, TN 37064, Brittany Burton, Managing Agent, For On Premises Consumption**Sponsors:**

Robert Crockett and Brittany Burton, the new owners of the Franklin Chop House, were in attendance to answer any questions from the Board. The new owners noted that the restaurant will continue with business as usual. They are not making any changes to training and policies for the sale of alcoholic beverages, Ms. Davey explained that this application is for new owners of an existing business in the City of Franklin.

A motion was made by Alderman Clyde Barnhill, seconded by Vice Chair Greg Caesar to Approve the Beer Permit. The motion passed 3-0.

6. Consideration Of Application Of Drury Development Corporation, D/B/A Drury Plaza Hotel - Franklin, 1874 West McEwen Drive, Franklin, TN 37067, Timothy Tolbert, Managing Agent, For On And Off Premises Consumption

Sponsors:

Timothy Tolbert, General Manager of Drury Plaza Hotel - Franklin, and Rob Pinson, legal representation for the Drury Plaza Hotel - Franklin, were in attendance to answer any questions from the Board. Mr. Pinson explained that the entity and operations will remain the same. The passing of the previous owner has necessitated the need for a new beer permit. Mr. Tolbert explained that there is a nightly reception where patrons can purchase beer, wine, or cocktails to be enjoyed in the hotel or off-premises if purchased in the market. Ms. Davey explained that this application is for new ownership of an existing business in the City of Franklin.

Alderman Caesar asked for clarification on who can purchase alcoholic beverages at the reception. Answer: Mr. Tolbert explained that you must be a guest of the hotel to purchase.

A motion was made by Alderman Clyde Barnhill, seconded by Vice Chair Greg Caesar to Approve the Beer Permit. The motion passed 3-0.

7. Discussion Of Issuance Of Beer Permits Contingent Upon Temporary Certificates Of Occupancy

Sponsors: Blake Harper

Blake Harper, Staff Attorney, introduced the item. He explained that the City Attorney's office has been asked to look into the timing of beer permits in relation to temporary and final Certificates of Occupancy (CO). Specifically, whether the Municipal Code should be amended to allow for beer permits to be issued based on a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. He stated that, based on the plain language of the City of Franklin Municipal Code and relevant legal authority, it is the opinion of this office that the City should keep the code the way it is. Their recommendation is to maintain the existing requirement that no beer permit, temporary or permanent, be issued without a final Certificate of Occupancy.

Per the recommendation of the City Attorney's Office, Alderman Barnhill does not support adding a temporary CO as a provision for the issuance of a beer permit.

Alderman Caesar asked Mr. Harper to explain where this request came from.

Answer: Mr. Harper explained that this request came up when new businesses brought up the concern that a hold-up in the zoning process inhibited their ability to get a beer permit, even though all life-safety needs and other building requirements were met. For example, if the Historic Zoning Commission denies a new business request, they cannot get a final zoning approval or final Certificate of Occupancy.

Chair Potts asked Mr. Harper to review the City's issuance of temporary versus permanent Certificates of Occupancy.

Mr. Harper provided a breakdown of COs issued in the last few years.

Chair Potts asked how long it typically takes to transition from a temporary CO to a permanent CO.

Answer: Tom Marsh, Building and Neighborhood Services Director, responded that there is usually a minimum of 30 days. As Mr. Harper described, there are a variety of things that could hold up the permanent CO process. It could be a Historic Zoning concern, such as non-compliance with Certificate of Appropriateness, or life-safety or building issue that needs to be rectified. He did note that a common issue recently has been non-compliance with the Stormwater plan or off-site improvements, which could take months to fully comply with. If the business is operating on an expired temporary CO, normal enforcement

kicks in and violations will start to accrue until a new CO, temporary or permanent, is issued.

Vice Chair Caesar proposed the option of giving the Beer Board the authority to issue a beer permit at their own discretion, whether a business has a temporary CO or permanent CO.

Mr. Harper explained that his request would require an amendment to the Code. It currently reads that a permanent CO is required for the issuance of a beer permit.

Alderman Barnhill broached the idea that maybe we do not offer contingent approvals. Maybe the Beer Board only issues beer permits if a business has a permanent CO.

Chair Potts did not support amending the Code to change the beer permit process to include temporary COs at this time. When they approve beer permits contingent upon the approval of the CO, they are not impeding the business from moving forward. Hence, the process seems to be working effectively right now, and he sees no reason to change it.

Mr. Harper recommended that, moving forward, we clarify in our motions to approve beer permits upon approval of the permanent certificate of occupancy.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Alderman Clyde Barnhill, seconded by Vice Chair Greg Caesar to Adjourn the Meeting. The motion passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned @ 4:45 PM



Jason Potts, Chair

Disclaimer: The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Minutes Prepared by Sarah Schilling, Assistant Deputy City Recorder, City Administrator's Office - 7/2/2025, 4:23 PM