



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 45.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: MAY 4, 2011

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING
DIRECTOR: FLINN FAGG, Acting

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:
Discussion and possible action regarding a review of conditions on a Temporary Tavern License, Raovis Enterprises Inc., dba Pong's Casino China Mex, 7021 East Charleston Boulevard, Mercy Mejia, Pres. ex. Treas. Dir. 00% - Wain (Reese)

Fiscal Impact

☐ No Impact ☐ Augmentation Required
☐ Budget Funds Available

Amount:
Funding Source:
Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Discussion and possible action regarding a review of conditions on a Temporary Tavern License.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to be provided following the discussion of this item at the City Council Meeting. The current conditions on the license are:

1. Thursday night - karaoke with DJ - 11:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m.
2. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night - live music - 11:00 p.m. - 3:30 a.m.; DJ - 3:30 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.
3. Any alteration from this schedule must be approved by Business Services Manager or Supervisor.
4. Any violations of the above conditions will result in immediate suspension of business license.
5. Mr. Mejia must submit an application for suitability and receive a favorable report from Metro within 90 days.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

None

Motion made by GARY REESE to Deny

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

LOIS TARKANIAN, STEVE WOLFSON, OSCAR B. GOODMAN, GARY REESE, STEVEN D. ROSS, STAVROS S. ANTHONY; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-RICKI Y. BARLOW)

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Minutes:

CAROL MEYER, Business Services Supervisor, stated that an administrative temporary license was issued for Fongs Garden China Mex in May of 2010. During the August 4, 2010 Council meeting an extension was requested. On October 27, 2010, a completed background investigation was received with an area of concern. The MEJIAS were asked to meet with staff to go over the report. During that meeting, MR. MEJIA asked for more time. The area of concern is that MR. MEJIA was identified as a principal or lender in the business and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro) requires that he submit a background investigation packet. Staff agreed to let his temporary license run the six-month course, as long as MR. MEJIA would provide Metro the required information before February of 2011. MR. MEJIA did not comply with the request and this application was placed on the February 2nd agenda. During that meeting he asked for additional time and was given three months to comply with Metro's request. MS. MEYER read into the record the conditions imposed on the temporary license at that time. MR. MEJIA submitted a partial packet for lender suitability on February 24th. DETECTIVE TODD HUMPHREY sent MR. MEJIA a certified letter with a list of the missing items needed to complete the investigation. On yesterday, MR. MEJIA brought only a partial portion of what Metro had asked for. In the past six months there have been 10 calls for service with one resulting in an arrest at his location.

MS. MEJIA, through ELISA MEJIA, a certified translator in the State of California, explained that the license was transferred to her name. She has divorced MR. MEJIA and confirmed that he provided the requested information late. As far as her background, she has been attentive to everything being required of her by the City in the order it was requested. She is waiting for an approval because she is currently hanging in regards to the business. Due to the sluggish economy, she was hoping for an approval to perhaps sell the license or to apply for a business loan.

COUNCILMAN REESE verified with MS. MEYER that there are no areas of concerns with MRS. MEJIA; they all concern MR. MEJIA. Even though it was represented that MR. MEJIA would not have any involvement in the business, Metro found that he is actively involved. Through the translator, MRS. MEJIA indicated that bank accounts were transferred to her name.

DETECTIVE HUMPHREY indicated that MR. MEJIA is an authorized signer on the Paovis Enterprises doing business as Fongs Garden China Mex. MRS. MEJIA explained that he was helping her. COUNCILMAN REESE stated that MR. MEJIA was asked numerous times to provide information and enough time to rectify the problem. DETECTIVE HUMPHREY added that the investigation revealed that MR. MEJIA has provided the majority of money to the business. There seems to be some questions in regards to \$9,500 in cash being deposited into the business bank account. MR. MAJIA only provided one years worth of bank records. MRS. MEJIA indicated that she could prove the money came from the sale of her house in Bolivia. DETECTIVE HUMPHREY stated that as part of the initial investigation MRS. MEJIA was asked to provide the check she used to purchase the business but she failed to do so. MRS. MEJIA replied she has proof that the money was deposited into the Wells Fargo bank account.

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COUNCILMAN REESE found it difficult to approve the permanent license given the fact that MRS. MEJIA was given sufficient time to resolve these issues. MRS. MEJIA responded that all the issues were not caused by her. MR. MEJIA was only helping her with the business process while he is looking for another job. MRS. MEJIA verified for MAYOR GOODMAN that the business is still open and MR. MEJIA was there this past weekend.

MS. MEYER recommended that the temporary license expire.

