

**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 2, 2018**

PURPOSE: Hearing for Country Fair to present the request for the transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License from the City of Erie to the Country Fair, 76 North Main Street, Union City, PA.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by President Brumagin. The public hearing was held at the Union City Area High School LGI Room.

Councilors present were President Brumagin, Councilor Conklin, Councilor Steadman, Councilor Kolaja, Councilor McGuire.

Officials present were Solicitor Wachter, Mayor Wilmoth, and Borough Secretary/Treasure Cindy Wells.

Visitors present see attached sign-in sheet.

Paul Rankin, Vice President Retail Marketing, represented Country Fair. Paul presented plans for the facility should the transfer of the restaurant liquor license be approved. To meet the Pennsylvania state requirements Country Fair would need to add seating for 32 people. It would have to be sold from separate registers not registers for gasoline sales. Alcohol consumption would be limited to 40 ounces of beer and only be permitted with prepared food. They can only sell up to 196 ounces per transaction. Alcohol would not be sold 24 hours 7 days a week. It would only be sold from 7:00 A.M. to 2:00 A.M. and reduced hours on Sundays 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 A.M. Country Fair has other locations that are selling alcohol and they have very few people that actually consume the alcohol at the store location. They are giving training for employees. No consumption is permitted outside the premises.

Solicitor Wachter stated there is a Borough law that does not permit carrying of open containers.

Paul Rankin was available to answer questions.

Mark Racop of Union City Beverage Company at 43 Waterford Street that he has been anticipating the sale of alcohol from convenience stores. He feels this is another opportunity for the state to make money.

Dave Wellman, a resident of Union City asked how this would benefit the Borough. Paul Rankin stated that Country Fair currently employees approximately 40 people from the Borough. Country Fair has always supported the Borough and they do pay property taxes. Dave stated that he felt it would hurt local businesses. There is a beer distributor less than a tenth of a mile from Country Fair. Dave questioned about purchases requiring ID. Paul Rankin stated that in order for a purchase to be made a driver's license must be run through the register. Dave stated that there are young people who work at Country Fair and that if customers consume more than 40 ounces or cause problems would they be able to handle it. Paul said they train employees for this type of circumstance. They also have cameras and any employees who violate by the selling to minors would be terminated.

Kimberly Stine of Kim's Townhouse provided a letter regarding her concerns. The letter was read by Borough Secretary Cindy Wells and is attached.

Solicitor Wachter stated Council has 45 days to act regarding the transfer of the license. They can put restrictions in place.

Public Hearing adjourned at 6:51 P.M.

. ATTEST: _____
Borough Secretary/Treasure