

Mayor Diana Merdian called the Liquor Commission meeting to order at 3:30 am on September 3, 2025. Present: Mayor Merdian, Alderman Retha Elston, Alderman Baker, Attorney Tim Zollinger, Police Chief Alex Chavira, Building and Zoning Superintendent Amanda Schmidt, and City Clerk Teri Sathoff. Absent - None.

Also present were Ryan and Ashley Nares from The Mercantile.

Mayor Merdian stated the first item on the agenda was to discuss a proposal by the Nares to have the City allow for extended hours for special pop-up events.

The Nares have held special events in the past and have had difficulty getting everyone out. They would like to bring nightlife back to Sterling and offer a place for people to dance.

After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the commission to recommend extended hours with the following parameters.

- Last Call would be at 2:15 am, patrons out of the business at 3:00 am, and Staff out at 4:00 am.
- A limit of no more than 1 extended hour permit per month, with a max of 12 per year.
- \$100 per permit application.
- Any alcohol citation would result in a 1-year suspension of all extended-hour permits.
- Applications must be submitted 30 days in advance.
- Pertains to indoor events only, no outdoor events.

The hours for New Year's Eve were also discussed. It was suggested that the hours on New Year's Eve mirror the extended hours.

The second item on the agenda was a request from Fire Coop LLC for a Class E liquor license at 3203 East Lincolnway. The business owners are Matt Prescott, Tim Kendrick, and Breck Loos. They are interested in opening a restaurant called the Artisan Oven.

Mr. Prescott was not able to attend the meeting due to an out-of-town scheduling conflict. He provided the following information regarding Artisan Oven.

Artisan Oven will offer wood-fired pizza, Chicken George, sandwiches, and salads. The Focus will be on the oven. There will be a lunch buffet, a nice sitting lounge, with seating for about 120 people. They are excited to have a place in Sterling with Chicken George while bringing something new and unique to the area. The projected opening date is early November. They will be open 7 days a week, 11:00 am to 9:00 or 10:00 pm.

City Clerk Sathoff stated the background check has been completed on the owners, and the applications have been filled out. The background did not reveal any concerning issues.

After discussion, Alderperson Elston made a motion to recommend to the City Council to amend Chapter 6 Article II Section 42 to increase the number of liquor licenses for The Artisan Oven; seconded by Alderman Baker. All voted in favor of the recommendation.

Mayor Merdian had questions for Attorney Zollinger in regards to a business that is offering alcohol at an event they are advertising. They will have to get a Special Event license to be able to serve alcohol at this event.

With nothing further to discuss, the Liquor Commission Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Teri Sathoff
City Clerk