



Friday, April 10, 2026
City of Sterling Council Meeting at 3:30 PM

CITY OF STERLING COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Council Chambers - First Floor

212 Third Avenue

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89251068027>

1. Meeting Opening

- A. Call to Order
- B. Minutes

2. Business Items

- A. North End Liquor hearing in reference to the sale of tobacco products to a person under the age of 21.
- B. Smoke Lab LLC hearing in reference to the sale of tobacco products to a person under the age of 21.
- C. Sidewalk Café Seating at 312 Locust Street, Dunks Restaurant Inc.

3. Adjourn

The City of Sterling in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that persons with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of this meeting or facilities, contact the ADA Coordinator at (815) 632-6630 to allow the City of Sterling to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.

Mayor Diana Merdian called the Liquor Commission meeting to order at 3:30 am on February 9, 2026. Present: Mayor Merdian, Alderman Retha Elston, Alderman Baker, Attorney Tim Zollinger, Police Chief E. Pat Bartel, Building and Zoning Superintendent Amanda Schmidt, and City Clerk Teri Sathoff. Absent - None.

Also present were Ricardo and Seng Montanez from Dairy Mart Plus and Megan Wilson from the Alibi.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the November 25, 2025, meeting minutes; Alderman Baker seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Ricardo and Seng Montanez from Dairy Mart Plus recently renovated the banquet facility located at 308 16th Avenue. The property is located adjacent to the Dairy Mart building. The two buildings operate as one business; however, they are on separate parcels.

The owners would like to offer beer and wine with food from their food truck at the banquet facility. They would like to be open to the public after the Dairy Mart closes. There was a lengthy discussion explaining the difference between a Class B restaurant license and a Class C banquet hall license. The owners decided the Class B restaurant license was the best fit for them. They understand that they will have to combine the parcels with the County to be eligible for this license.

Megan Wilson of Light Street TM LLC requested a Class E tavern license for the occupancy located at 312 Light Street. The proposed business, to be known as *The Alibi*, would feature a speakeasy-style theme. Building Superintendent Amanda Schmidt advised that the restroom facilities must be approved by the State Plumbing Inspector, be fully accessible, and be located within a reasonable distance of the licensed premises. Restroom facilities may not be located within another occupancy. The accessibility to the entrance of the building was also discussed. Currently, there are stairs with no handicap access. Wilson stated she plans on adding a wheelchair lift to the entrance.

After additional discussion, the Commission determined recommendation to the Council would be dependent on what the building department and the State plumbing inspector said about the building. Wilson was going to schedule an inspection with each.

City Clerk Sathoff stated there was a request from Sterling Main Street to amend Chapter 6, Article I, Section 6-3(d)(6) to include aluminum containers. The current ordinance requires that any container used to possess alcoholic liquor on City property be paper or plastic. Sterling Main Street, in coordination with the City of Sterling, will be hosting a street festival in July and is requesting this amendment to allow alcoholic beverages in aluminum cans to be taken outside during the event.

After discussion, Alderperson Elston made a motion to recommend to the City Council to amend Chapter 6, Article I, Section 6-3(d)(6) to include aluminum containers; seconded by Alderman Baker. All voted in favor of the recommendation.

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

Teri Sathoff
City Clerk

BEFORE THE TOBACCO CONTROL COMMISSIONER
OF THE CITY OF STERLING, ILLINOIS

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: North End Liquor
Attn: Manager
208 W Miller Rd
Sterling, IL 61081

LICENSED PREMISES: North End Liquor, 208 W. Miller Rd., Sterling, IL 61081

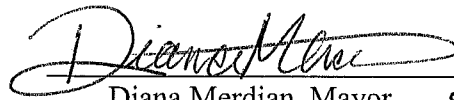
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, pursuant to Section 22-92(c) of the City Code of the City of Sterling, Illinois, that the undersigned Tobacco Control Commissioner will hold a public hearing at the Sterling City Hall, 212 Third Avenue, Sterling, Illinois, on April 10, 2026, at the hour of 3:30 P.M., to determine whether your license to sell tobacco products should be suspended, revoked, or you should be fined by reason of the following violation, to-wit:

That on the 17th of March, 2026, the licensee, its employees, or agents, committed the offense of selling and/or delivering tobacco products to a person under the age of 21 years, in violation of Section 22-78(a) of the Code of the City of Sterling, said sale or delivery being made at the licensed premises of the licensee as set forth above.

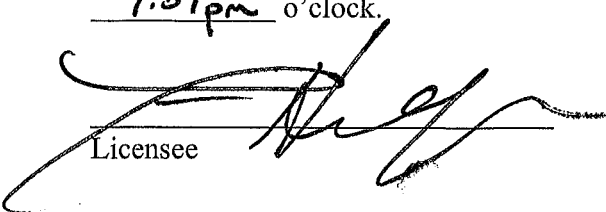
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that at such time and place, i.e., April 10th, 2026, at 3:30 P.M., you have the opportunity to appear and defend against said charge. You may be represented by an attorney of your own choosing.

Your failure to appear may result in the Tobacco Control Commissioner imposing a penalty in your absence, up to and including revocation of your license to sell tobacco products in the City of Sterling.

Dated this 2 day of April, 2026.


Diana Merdian, Mayor *KRE*
Tobacco Control Commissioner
City of Sterling, Illinois

I served a copy of the above Notice of Hearing upon the licensee North End Liquor, 208 W. Miller Rd., Sterling, IL 61081 on the 2nd day of April, 2026 at 1:07pm o'clock.



Licensee

B. Mhy # 611

**BEFORE THE TOBACCO CONTROL COMMISSIONER
OF THE CITY OF STERLING, ILLINOIS**

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Smoke Lab LLC
Attn: Manager
2323 E. Lincolnway
Sterling, IL 61081

LICENSED PREMISES: Smoke Lab LLC, 2323 E. Lincolnway, Sterling, IL 61081


YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, pursuant to Section 22-92(c) of the City Code of the City of Sterling, Illinois, that the undersigned Tobacco Control Commissioner will hold a public hearing at the Sterling City Hall, 212 Third Avenue, Sterling, Illinois, on April 10, 2026, at the hour of 3:30 P.M., to determine whether your license to sell tobacco products should be suspended, revoked, or you should be fined by reason of the following violation, to-wit:

That on the 17th of March, 2026, the licensee, its employees, or agents, committed the offense of selling and/or delivering tobacco products to a person under the age of 21 years, in violation of Section 22-78(a) of the Code of the City of Sterling, said sale or delivery being made at the licensed premises of the licensee as set forth above.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that at such time and place, i.e., April 10th, 2026, at 3:30 P.M., you have the opportunity to appear and defend against said charge. You may be represented by an attorney of your own choosing.

Your failure to appear may result in the Tobacco Control Commissioner imposing a penalty in your absence, up to and including revocation of your license to sell tobacco products in the City of Sterling.

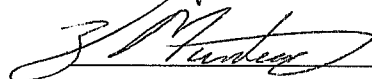
Dated this 2 day of April, 2026.


Diana Merdian, Mayor *KPE*
Tobacco Control Commissioner
City of Sterling, Illinois

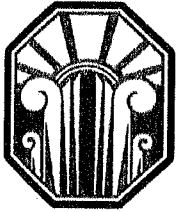
I served a copy of the above Notice of Hearing upon the licensee Smoke Lab LLC, 2323 E. Lincolnway, Sterling, IL 61081 on the 2nd day of April, 2026 at 17:45 o'clock.



Licensee



J. P. Henderson



APPLICATION FOR SIDEWALK CAFÉ SEATING \$75 Annually

The applicant acknowledges that he is in no way authorized to sell or transfer any license granted and agrees to surrender said license to the City should he cease retail liquor sales for any reason.

1. Name of Business: Dunks Restaurant Inc.

Address of Business: 312 Locust St. Phone Number: 815-632-3040

2. Applicant Name: Brick Boss

Applicant Address: 1910 E 4th St. Sterling Phone Number: 815-718-5444

3. Property owner Name: _____ (if different than applicant)

Property Owner Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

4. Service type? (Carry out, wait staff, hybrid of both) both

5. Proposed serving times 11am - 9pm

6. Will canopies or shade structures be in use? Yes No

7. I have read and agree to Chapter 6 Sec. 6-52 Outdoor Sidewalk Permits Yes No (Attached)

8. I have included a certificate of insurance naming the City of Sterling as an additional insured with a minimum liability coverage of \$1,000,000.00. bb (initials)

Site Plan and Written Description:

Applicants must include A dimensioned plan drawn to scale and done in a professional manner showing sidewalk and all other improvements such as light posts, benches, planters, trees and tree grates in the area, location of the curb relative to the building, and the proposed location of all café type furniture, furniture described by height, color and type of materials, to be placed on the sidewalk. Furniture items (sometimes referred to herein as "items") may include the following: tables, chairs, benches, trash receptacles, planters or other articles of a character, nature, material, and color conducive to an attractive outdoor café atmosphere.