



This meeting was held in City Council Chambers, second floor, City Hall, 375 Merrimack St. on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 6:00 PM, and by Zoom invitation.

Video of this meeting is available: https://youtu.be/Ac2FevnrEng?si=yu6S1_MJg_NKd9dz

ROLL CALL:

On a roll call at 18:00, members present were, namely: Commission Chair Donahue, Commissioner Mercier, and Commissioner Underwood. Commissioner Taing and Commissioner Krieger were absent.

MINUTES:

- 0 Acceptance of the meeting minutes for January 8, 2026.

Commissioner Underwood made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of Thursday, June 12, 2025; seconded by Commissioner Mercier. 3 yeas, 2 absent (C. Taing, C. Krieger), APPROVED.

- 1 Application by Jim Roberts, for a "Special One Day License to sell/dispense Wines only," for "The Blues" Reception at Arts League of Lowell, 307 Market Street, on Saturday, January 24, 2026, 3-5 PM.

Mr. Roberts appeared before the Commission and spoke about the event.

Move approval by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Donahue. 3 yeas, 2 absent (C. Taing, C. Krieger), APPROVED.

- 2 Application by Clemente Park Committee, Jhonnatha Cheam, Committee Chair, for a "Special Events Permit for Amplified Outdoor Public Entertainment," for the '16th Annual Khmer New Year's Celebration,' to be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM at Pailin Sports Complex at Clemente Park, 803 Middlesex Street. Rain date 4/19.

Mr. Cheam spoke to the Commission about his annual New Year event. Lowell Police Department Captain Peaslee noted that there have never been any incidents at this event.

Move approval by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 3 yeas, 2 absent (C. Taing, C. Krieger), APPROVED.

- 3 Application by Ross Finn for "Special One Day License for Auctioneer," for an auction on February 19, 2026, at 1400 Middlesex Street.

Ross Finn joined the meeting via Zoom. He reviewed the auction he would be managing, and he reviewed his experience as an Auctioneer.

Move approval by Commissioner Underwood; seconded by Commissioner Mercier. 3 yeas, 2 absent (C. Taing, C. Krieger), APPROVED.

- 4 Application by Nijaba Restaurant Inc d/b/a Pikadely Empanadas Y Mas, Josue Aguilar, Corporate Director, for Common Victualler license for 378 Broadway Street.

Josue Bautista Aguilar and Jose Fuentes presented their application to the board. They reviewed their menu, experience, location, and décor.

Move approval by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Donahue. 3 yeas, 2 absent (C. Taing, C. Krieger), APPROVED.

- 5 Application by Jennifer Cerretti, Hive Public Market for a "Special One Day License to sell/dispense Wines and Malt Beverages only," for 'Final Fridays,' to be held on Friday, January 30, 2026, from 7 to 10 PM at Hive Public Market, 101 Paige Street.

Ms. Cerretti reviewed her application and noted for the Commission that she would have TIPS Certified bartenders. Commissioner Mercier noted that there was recently another alcohol event at Hive Public Market. Ms. Cerretti noted that the previous event went very well and had no incidents.

Move approval by Commissioner Underwood; seconded by Commissioner Mercier. 3 years, 2 absent (C. Taing, C. Krieger), APPROVED.

- 6 Application by Jennie Torres-Hertello for a "Special One Day License to sell/dispense Wines and Malt Beverages only," for 'Galentine's Bento Cake Decorating Class,' to be held on Friday, February 6, 2026, from 6:30-8:30 PM at Mill City Grows, 19 Hall Street.

Ms. Hertello introduced herself and spoke about her event. Commissioner Donahue asked about her bartender's certification and she explained that she was newly TIPS Certified for this event and that she would be the bartender with about 30 adults in attendance.

Move approval by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 3 years, 2 absent (C. Taing, C. Krieger), APPROVED.

- 7 Public hearing continued from January 8, 2026, regarding an application by Lowell Asian Restaurant LLC, Sally Le Ho proposed license manager, for a new "All Alcoholic Beverages" Restaurant License at 369 Broadway Street.

Sally Le appeared before the Commission and presented her TIPS Certification. She informed the Commission that she would hire additional bartender(s) as needed in a few months after the state approves the license, and that they would also be certified.

At the hearing, no one spoke in favor or in opposition to the application.

Motion to approve the application by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Donahue. 3 years, 2 absent (C. Taing, C. Krieger), APPROVED.

- 8 Request continuation of public hearing regarding an application by 30 Lowell Hospitality LLC [d/b/a] Sonesta Select Boston Lowell, Uday Patel proposed license manager, for transfer of an "All Alcoholic Beverages" Hotel License at 30 Industrial Avenue East. To be continued at the February 5, 2026, meeting.

Secretary Pyers provided an update regarding the application, namely that the Business Entity had proposed a different License Manager and that they were correcting a couple of other documents.

Motion to continue hearing at the February 5, 2026, meeting after amended application is readvertised was made by Commissioner Mercier and seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 3 years, 2 absent (C. Taing, C. Krieger), APPROVED.

- 9 Request public hearing regarding an application by Populus Lowell LLC [d/b/a] Populus, Antonio Lama proposed license manager, for a new "All Alcoholic Beverages" Restaurant License at 15, 19-25 Merrimack Street, to be held at the February 5, 2026, License Commission meeting.

Motion to schedule the public hearing for the February 5, 2026, meeting of the Lowell License Commission by Commissioner Underwood; seconded by Commissioner Mercier. 3 yeas, 2 absent (C. Taing, C. Krieger), APPROVED.

- 10 Request public hearing regarding an application by On the Bun LLC [d/b/a] On the Bun, Hector Rodriguez proposed license manager, for a new "Wines and Malt Beverages" Restaurant License at 120-122 Merrimack Street, to be held at the February 5, 2026, License Commission meeting.

Motion to schedule the public hearing for the February 5, 2026, meeting of the Lowell License Commission by Commissioner Krieger; seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 3 yeas, 2 absent (C. Taing, C. Krieger), APPROVED.

- 11 Advisory from State Fire Marshal concerning sparklers and other pyrotechnics.

Secretary Pyers informed the Commission that notice had been emailed to all on-premises licensees.

Motion to place the matter on file by Commissioner Underwood; seconded by Commissioner Mercier. 3 yeas, 2 absent (C. Taing, C. Krieger), APPROVED.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Mercier made a motion to adjourn at 18:16, seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 3 yeas, 2 absent (C. Krieger, C. Taing), APPROVED.

Submitted by: John Pyers

Executive Secretary

Minutes are prepared mainly per RONR(12th ed.) 48:2.

