

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022

The Caddo Parish Alcohol Beverage Committee met in legal session on the above date at 2:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Atkins, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Epperson, Johnson, and Lazarus (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Hopkins and Taliaferro (2).

Mr. Lazarus gave the invocation, and Mr. Epperson led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Epperson requested that the oath be added to the agenda as an agenda item. The Clerk of the Commission stated that he would add it on future agendas under the Pledge of Allegiance

**NEW BUSINESS**

At this time, the Clerk of the Commission swore the deputies and representatives of the businesses in.

- Stonewall Beverage Company—12800 Mansfield Road, Keithville, LA (3rd citation) (District 11)

Sgt. Scoggins said that on July 20, 2022, the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office conducted an underage alcohol sales operation. Det. Ardoin, Det. Harris, and the CI went to Stonewall Beverage Company around 7:20 p.m. Det. Ardoin witnessed the 19 year old CI purchase a 22 oz bottle of Heineken beer for \$3.33 from store clerk, Dawson Taytum. He did not check the CI's driver's license, and he was issued a summons for unlawful sales to a person under 21.

Cole Dixon, Manager of Stonewall Beverage Company, said that Dawson Taytum was guilty. He went back and watched the video.

Mr. Dixon then wanted to know the reason for this being a third citation. He said that the previous clerk who sold to an underage person and the charges were dropped by the District Attorney. Attorney Frazier pointed out that those proceedings are separate from these proceedings. She said that the person being charged is criminal, and this one is civil. Mr. Dixon then questioned that the person who was originally summoned had their charges dropped, and this is now being charged as a third citation. Attorney Frazier stated that was correct and explained that they do not know if the charges were removed as a result of a plea to another incident. She said that the reason those charges were dismissed may have nothing to do with this incident.

Mr. Dixon then wanted to know why he was not serve any papers for the March 10, 2022 incident. Mr. Atkins explained that the store is ultimately responsible for the actions of its employees. He further stated that there may have been an administrative oversight with respect to serving papers on the March 10, 2022 incident, but if an act of serving a minor occurred, then it still occurred. Mr. Dixon stated that he was not given the opportunity to come and speak before the Commission. The Clerk of the Commission stated that he does have a receipt for the certified letter that was signed for. Sgt. Scoggins said that the Sheriff's Office only serves papers when the registered letters are returned.

Mr. Atkins asked for the proper mailing address for Stonewall Beverage Company. Mr. Dixon said that the mailing address is 121 Stone Creek Drive.

Mr. Johnson requested that the penalties be stated for each offense. Attorney Frazier said that the first offense is \$500, second offense is \$750, and the third offense is \$1,000. The revocation or suspension of a permit is in addition to, and not in lieu of the limitation of a penalty imposed by law. Attorney Frazier further stated that this is what is stated in the Code of Ordinances.

Mr. Johnson further stated that the employee who sold to the underage person is a completely separate process than the penalty for the establishment. Mr. Johnson said that he will not be standing against the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers saying that they did not do enough to protect their children. He further stated that he is adamant about utilizing penalties that are in place to ensure that owners hire qualified people to work there or they have technology in place to aid them in not selling to persons under the age of 21.

Mr. Dixon wanted to know what the businesses put in place to ensure that they are 100% perfect. Mr. Johnson said that there are card readers that alert when a person is under the age of 21. Mr. Dixon argued that he could have another person's identification who is over the age of 21. Mr. Dixon said that he cannot watch the employees all of the time.

The Clerk of the Commission stated for the record that Mr. Dixon was at the last alcohol hearing.

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *to recommend to the full body*

a third offense fine of \$1,000 to Stonewall Beverage Company. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Epperson, and Lazarus (3). NAYS: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Hopkins and Taliaferro (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- The Relay Station—10281 Highway 1, Shreveport, LA 71115 (1<sup>st</sup> citation) (District 8)

Sgt. Scoggins said that on July 20, 2022, the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office conducted an underage alcohol sales operation. Det. Ardoin, Det. Harris, and the CI went to Stonewall Beverage Company around 5:40 p.m. Det. Ardoin witnessed the 19 year old CI purchase a 25 oz can of Natural Light beer for \$2.00 from store clerk, Heather Williams. She was issued a summons for unlawful sales to a person under 21.

Mr. Anthony Crawford, Relay Station Manager, stated that he reviewed the video, and the testimony that Sgt. Scoggins gave was true. He said that they have a zero-tolerance policy in place, and Heather Williams was terminated. Mr. Crawford also said that they have a card reader at every point of sale. They did update the training after this incident.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if the clerk used the scanner. Mr. Crawford stated that she did not.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to recommend to the full body a first offense fine of \$500 to The Relay Station.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Epperson, Johnson, and Lazarus (4). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Hopkins and Taliaferro (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Attorney Frazier said that the Clerk of the Commission has notified her that the fines have been updated to: 1<sup>st</sup> offense fine of \$250, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense fine of \$500, and the third offense fine of \$750. She explained that the digital version of the Code of Ordinances have not been updated. Mr. Atkins said that Stonewall Beverage Company's fine has been modified to \$750, and The Relay Station's fine has been modified to \$250.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if the revocation or suspension of the license is included. Attorney Frazier said that the Commission can revoke or suspend the license under any circumstance.

- Triple J Travel Plaza—8311 Springridge Texas Line Road, Keithville, LA 71047 (3rd citation) (District 12)

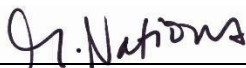
Sgt. Scoggins said that on July 20, 2022, the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office conducted an underage alcohol sales operation. Det. Ardoin, Det. Harris, and the CI went to Triple J Travel Plaza around 8:30 p.m. Det. Ardoin witnessed the 19 year old CI purchase a 40 oz bottle of Bud Ice beer for \$3.49 from store clerk, Tasha Wilson. She did not check the CI's driver's license, and he was issued a summons for unlawful sales to a person under 21. Sgt. Scoggins pointed out that this is Ms. Wilson's second offense. She was also issued a summons for not having an ABO card.

Mr. John Settle, agent for Mr. Simon and Triple J Travel Plaza, stated that Mr. Simon does admit that these events did occur. He also said that Ms. Wilson sold to an underage person on March 10, 2022, but appealed to Mr. Simon's emotions, so he did not terminate her then. After this incident, he did terminate her employment. Mr. Settle also said that there are scanners installed, and Mr. Simon is aware of the seriousness of consequences.

The Clerk of the Commission explained that after this committee, these actions will be placed on the next Work Session and Regular Session agendas to come before the full body for final vote. He said that the next Regular Session is November 3, 2022.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to recommend to the full body a third offense fine of \$750 to Triple J Travel Plaza.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Epperson, and Lazarus (3). NAYS: Commissioner Johnson (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Hopkins and Taliaferro (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

  
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Michelle Nations  
Assistant Commission Clerk