



This meeting was held in City Council Chambers, second floor, City Hall, 375 Merrimack St. on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 6:00 PM, and by Zoom invitation.

Video of this meeting is available: <https://www.youtube.com/live/QB3ZP6jYYcQ?si=skESmpOelPaiGUml>

ROLL CALL:

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

MINUTES:

- 1 Acceptance of the meeting minutes for July 23, 2026.

Move approval by Commissioner Krieger; seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 4 yeas, 1 abstain (C. Uong), APPROVED.

- 2 Application by Salsa in Lowell, François Chevalier, Owner, for a "Special Events Permit for Amplified Outdoor Public Entertainment," for 'Salsa on the Deck,' to be held on some Sundays from August 30 to October 18, from 2 to 5 PM at the DCR park located at 262 Merrimack Street.

Mr. Chevalier spoke to the Commission about his return to "Salsa on the Deck."

Motion to approve by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Krieger. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 3 Application by James Macdonald for an additional "Special Events Permits for Amplified Outdoor Public Entertainment," and to change the approved "Wines and Malt Beverages" licenses to "All Alcoholic Beverages" licenses for the remainder of the 36th Season of the 'Lowell Summer Music Series' at Boarding House Park, 40 French Street. Specifics listed below:

- Retroactively:

- Sunday, August 2, "J. J. Grey & Mofro,"
- Friday, August 7, "Iron & Wine,"
- Saturday, August 8, "Christone 'Kingfish' Ingram,"
- Sunday, August 9, "Ripe,"

- Going Forward:

- Friday, August 14, "Watchhouse,"
- Saturday, August 15, "Pink Talking Fish,"
- Thursday, August 20, "The Record Company & Charlie Musselwhite,"
- Friday, August 21, "Lotus Land,"
- Sunday, August 30, "New England Film Orchestra," (*new date*)
- Friday, September 4, "Margo Price,"
- Saturday, September 12, "45th Annual Banjo & Fiddle Contest,"
- Sunday, September 13, "Graham Nash."

Mr. Macdonald spoke to the Commission about the success of the Lowell Summer Music Series and how he wants to expand alcohol service to include canned mixed drinks like the popular seltzers. He also reviewed a new concert added to the series.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Krieger; seconded by Commissioner Uong. 5 years, APPROVED.

- 4 Application by Peter Lally, Lowell Memorial Auditorium, for a "Special One Day License to sell/dispense Malt Beverages & Wines" and a "Special Events Permit for Amplified Outdoor Public Entertainment," for the 2026 Lowell Irish Festival. Event to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from Noon to 10 PM at Lowell Memorial Auditorium grounds, 50 East Merrimack Street.

Mr. Lally appeared before the Commission in Council Chambers. He reviewed the plans for this, the 7th or 8th Irish Festival organized by LMG Presents d/b/a Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Underwood; seconded by Commissioner Mercier. 5 years, APPROVED.

- 5 Application by Sheunesu Moyo, Dwelling House of Hope, for a "Special One Day License for Non-Profit to sell/dispense All Alcoholic Beverages" for the Multicultural Festival on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 11 AM to 7 PM at JFK Plaza, 50 Arcand Drive.

Mr. Moyo spoke to the Commission about his plans for the 4th annual Multicultural Festival, noting that he's organized 3 of the annual events. He confirmed that LPD details were scheduled for the festival, and Lowell Police Captain Peaslee confirmed that there have been no prior incidents or issues during this festival. Commission Chair Donahue confirmed with the applicant that the four bartenders serving at the event are TIPS Certified.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Krieger. 5 years, APPROVED.

- 6 Application by Corey Belanger for a "Special One Day License to sell/dispense Malt Beverages and Wines" for The Town and The City Festival 3 on Saturday, August 15, 2026, from 3 to 5 PM on Palmer Street.

Mr. Belanger appeared before the board to speak about his event, third in a series of collaborations with the City of Lowell. He noted that he would like an extension to the hours of service on the application, due to the addition of another band to the event. He confirmed for the Commission that the event would have the same footprint as the prior two events this summer, and he confirmed Police Detail would be present and his bartenders are TIPS Certified.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Krieger. 5 years, APPROVED.

- 7 Applications by Elizabeth Lopez for Aramark at Tsongas Center, for three "Special One Day Licenses to sell/dispense Malt Beverages and Wines only," for the following events on UMass Lowell's campus:
- Monday, August 17, 2026, 5:00 to 7:00 PM for a "Paraprofessional to Teacher Gathering," Allen House, 2 Solomon Way.
 - Sunday, September 20, 2026, 2:30 to 5:30 PM for a "Field Hockey Alumni Day Celebration" reception, at Kennedy Family Athletics Center, 275 Riverside Street.
 - Thursday, September 24, 2026, 6:30 to 8:30 PM for the "Celebrating Careers in Law" reception, at Coburn Hall, 850 Broadway Street.

Ms. Lopez reviewed her applications, noting that the University's fall semester is getting started.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Krieger; seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 8 Application by Amanda Étinge, for a "Special One Day License to sell/dispense Wines and Malt Beverages only," for a "Christian Women Fellowship" on Sunday, August 23, 2026, from 1 PM to 10 PM, at the Hellenic Center, 41 Broadway Street.

Ms. Étinge spoke to the Commission via Zoom. She noted that this event was being moved to this venue due to a larger crowd (#100). She confirmed that her usual TIPS Certified bartenders would be serving.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Krieger; seconded by Commissioner Uong. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 9 Application by 412 Realty Trust, Suzanne Donahue, Trustee, for Lodging House License for premises at 412 Fletcher Street.

Ms. Donahue (no relation to Commission Chair Donahue) appeared before the Commission. She confirmed that all her permits with the City were approved.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Uong. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 10 Application by Lokesh Mohan, owner of Shree Vishnu Padmavati LLC [d/b/a] Dip & Dine, for Common Victualler license for 1290 Westford Street.

M. Mohan spoke briefly about their restaurant concept and menu.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Krieger; seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 11 Application by Minhas Shaik, LLC Manager of Chinna and Minna LLC [d/b/a] Nanna's Kitchen, for Common Victualler license for 1040 Gorham Street.

M. Shaik reviewed their business model, noting that the restaurant is exclusively "to go."

Motion to approve by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Krieger. 5 years, APPROVED.

- 12 Public hearing for an application by Mestiza Latin Kitchen Corp., Luisa Fernanda Lopera, proposed license manager, for a new "Wine and Malt Beverages" Restaurant license for 491 Dutton Street, Unit 4.

Attorney Michael Zaim spoke for Mestiza Latin Kitchen, reviewing the applicant's business plan and hope to expand their service with beer and wine. Atty. Zaim reviewed the proposed manager's experience and how they proposed to control the service area.

At the public hearing, no one spoke in favor of the application, however, several neighbors did speak in opposition (Peter Fisher, Tony Wallace, Mark Demello, Alves Aires).

Commission Chair Donahue noted, in summary, that there seemed to be issues with the condominium association and communication problems between the 4 associations managing the mixed use building. He noted that the lease, granted by one of the owners and approved by the association, permitted alcohol in this restaurant area. Commissioner Donahue then asked Atty. Zaim to provide suggestions for mitigating various concerns voiced.

Motion to continue hearing at September 3, 2026, meeting by C. Krieger, seconded by C. Uong. Motion lost 3 to 2 on a roll-call vote: C. Donahue – N; C. Krieger – Y; C. Mercier – N; C. Underwood – N; C. Uong – Y; 2 years, 3 nays.

Commission Chair Donahue clarified the expectation that the applicant use signage and physical controls in place to keep alcohol and patrons within the business footprint.

Motion to approve the application by Commissioner Underwood; seconded by Commissioner Mercier. Passed unanimously on a roll-call vote: C. Donahue – Y, C. Krieger – Y, C. Mercier – Y, C. Underwood – Y, C. Uong – Y; 5 years, APPROVED.

- 13 Public Hearing to discuss Lowell Alcoholic Beverages Regulations.

At the hearing, City Councilor Rita Mercier spoke, in their capacity as a resident of the City, in favor of the proposed regulations, noting that an unintended loophole in the regulations had allowed minors to be invited into one of the bars downtown. City Councilor McDonough also spoke, in their capacity as a resident of the City, in favor of the proposed regulations, noting that the proposed changes would not affect the majority of the restaurants and bars who already have policies in place to manage underage patrons. Some business owners also spoke regarding the proposed regulations: P. Hamourgaz of the Worthen, N. Petrakos of Blue Shamrock, and E. Lugo of Tesco Center, each offered opinions and comments.

Solicitor Wood reviewed the proposed regulatory changes and their purpose. Discussion included an overview of the history of alcohol regulations in the City of Lowell, the effectiveness of past violation hearings and their decisions, and methods used by comparable municipalities to reduce underage drinking and other alcohol-related illegalities. The Commission commented on the proposals and

chose to enact the first part: approving the “General On-Premises” license type, and noting that restrictions on the license type would be determined during the continuation of the hearing, along with the other proposed regulatory changes. *[Draft Transcript of this hearing is attached to these minutes.]*

Motion to approve and make the “General On-Premises” type of annual alcohol license available to applicants in the City of Lowell, pending enumeration and vote on conditions of license, made by Commissioner Mercier and seconded by Commissioner Underwood. Passed on a roll-call vote: C. Donahue – Y, C. Krieger – N, C. Mercier – Y, C. Underwood – Y, C. Uong – Y; 4 yeas, 1 nay.

Motion to continue the hearing at the September 3, 2026, License Commission meeting by Commissioner Uong; seconded by Commissioner Mercier. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 14 Communication dated August 5, 2026, from Lowell Police Superintendent, Gregory Hudon, regarding allegations of misconduct charged against Picante Entertainment Group Inc. [d/b/a] Tesco Center, 70-72 Middlesex Street, Ernesto Lugo, License Manager, all alcoholic beverages restaurant licensee. Allegations of misconduct occurred June 28, 2026, regarding failure to comply with Alcoholic Beverages Regulations for Licenses Issued by the Lowell License Commission, specifically 2.04. Request for a compliance hearing to be held at the September 3, 2026, License Commission meeting.

Motion to hold a compliance hearing at the September 3, 2026, License Commission meeting by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 15 Communication dated August 5, 2026, from Lowell Police Superintendent, Gregory Hudon, regarding allegations of misconduct charged against Picante Entertainment Group Inc. [d/b/a] Tesco Center, 70-72 Middlesex Street, Ernesto Lugo, License Manager, all alcoholic beverages restaurant licensee. Allegations of misconduct occurred July 26, 2026, regarding failure to comply with Alcoholic Beverages Regulations for Licenses Issued by the Lowell License Commission: 1.06, 1.16, and 1.21. Request for a compliance hearing to be held at the September 3, 2026, License Commission meeting.

Motion to hold a compliance hearing at the September 3, 2026, License Commission meeting by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 16 Request for a hearing for an application by Takeo LLC, [d/b/a] BonChon Restaurant, Victor Vang, license manager, for alteration of premises of an "All Alcoholic Beverages" restaurant license for premises at 1075 Westford Street. It is requested that legal notice be published in local newspaper, and public hearing to be held on September 3, 2026, at 6 PM.

Motion to hold a hearing at the September 3, 2026, License Commission meeting by Commissioner Krieger; seconded by Commissioner Mercier. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 17 Communications to Commission regarding incidents and events.

Motion to place the matters on file by Commissioner Donahue, seconded by Commissioner Mercier. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

ADJOURNMENT:

**Commissioner Krieger made a motion to adjourn at 20:08, seconded by Commissioner Mercier.
5 yeas, APPROVED.**

Submitted by: John Pyers

Executive Secretary

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

