

**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Business Meeting of the
City of Kingsport Beverage Board
Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 1:30 PM
Montgomery-Watterson Boardroom, City Hall, 415 Broad Street, Kingsport**

PRESENT: Beverage Board:

John McKinley, Chair

Michael Forrester, Vice Chair

Kevin Mitchell

Jason Sanders

Travis Bishop, City Recorder

Jason Bellamy, Police Chief

City Staff:

Bart Rowlett, City Attorney

Sarah Valk, Assistant City Attorney

Angie Marshall, City Clerk/Deputy City Recorder

CALL TO ORDER: 1:30 p.m. by Chair McKinley.

I. ROLL CALL: by Deputy City Recorder Angie Marshall. Absent: Shelton Clark, Natalie Wells and Ken Weems.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT. Mr. Jonathan Reed commented on the code changes that would need to be approved for his business to sell beer.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Motion/Second: Mitchell/Forrester to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2026 regular business meeting.

Approved: All present voting “aye.”

IV. REVIEWING OF APPLICATIONS.

A. SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS

1. Kingsport Chamber Ms. Stephanie Hernandez was sworn in and provided details on this event, stating there will be three nationally recognized comedians, pizza and beer. She pointed out it was for attendees age 21 and up, noting they would be checking IDs at the door. Wristbands will also be provided. She stated there will be two police officers working the event as well. Planning Manager Weems previously reported no zoning issues to the City Clerk. Chief Bellamy confirmed no problems with the background check.

Motion/Second: Forrester/Mitchell:

To issue a Special Event Beverage Permit to the **Kingsport Chamber** for the **BrewHaHa** event taking place on Friday, April 19, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Meadowview Convention Center at 1901 Meadowview Parkway, Kingsport.

Approved: All present voting “aye.”

B. APPLICATIONS FOR NEW PERMITS.

1. **Los Nopales Mexican Grill**, City Clerk Marshall stated this applicant had notified her that they will not be in attendance.

2. **Ellis Cheevers LLC**, Mr. Daniel Cheevers, owner, was sworn in and explained they would like to open a second taproom for their first location – Bays Mountain Brewery, stating they were approached by the owner of High Voltage to purchase that business for retail beer operations, which will be effective the first week of March. He provided details on their procedures and there was considerable discussion on their license being for retail as they had originally applied for, or for manufacturing like the one they already possess at Bays Mountain Brewery because a manufacturer permit holder cannot legally possess a retail permit in addition to the manufacturing permit. There were also some discrepancies regarding the business license entity declared. Vice-Chair Forrester made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to table this item until the next meeting so the inconsistencies could be addressed. All present voting “aye.”

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

A. The Black Olive Kingsport requests a 30-day extension to open for The Black Olive located at 818 Black Olive Drive. Ms. Tara Hendrix stated they had an issue with a fire hydrant and also had to replace staff due to the delay in opening.

Motion/Second: Sanders/Forrester to grant the extension.

Approved: All present voting “aye.”

VI. NEW BUSINESS.

A. The Stone79, LLC Mr. Michael Gillis was sworn in and provided pictures to the board of proposed outdoor seating at his restaurant. The pictures showed the outdoor service area defined by posts in buckets. He noted this was only temporary and he would be installing ornamental fencing by March. There was considerable discussion regarding if the code qualifications were being met. Mr. Sanders made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the area, with all present voting “aye.”

B. REVIEW OF ARRESTS/INCIDENT REPORTS. Chief Bellamy stated there was nothing to report.

(Note: At this time (3:00 pm) Travis Bishop left the meeting.

C. LEGAL UPDATE ON POTENTIAL CODE CHANGES. Assistant City Attorney Sarah Valk gave a presentation on how other cities handle the food requirement for permit holders. City Attorney Rowlett further explained the options for the board to move forward with either a new class of permit or amending the code for presentation to the BMA. Discussion ensued.

(Note: At this time (3:35 pm) Vice-Chair Forrester left the meeting and the quorum was lost, therefore Chair McKinley adjourned the meeting.)

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

E. 2025 TABC ANNUAL REPORT *(for information only)*

VII. ADJOURN. With no other business to discuss, Chair McKinley adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

_____ Secretary