

BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022

WEST HOLLYWOOD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD

6:00 PM – REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vulin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Vulin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Eng
Commissioner Hang
Commissioner Lo
Commissioner Yusupov
Vice-Chair Eisenberg
Chair Vulin

ABSENT: Commissioner Saltzman

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Community Safety, Danny Rivas
Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez
Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi
Deputy City Attorney, Melissa Crosthwaite
Major Crimes Bureau Investigator, Michelle Hauser

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approve the Business License Commission agenda of Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Yusupov, seconded by Commissioner Hang, and approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the Minutes of the previous Business License Commission Meeting of Tuesday, October 4, 2022.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Yusupov, seconded by Commissioner Hang, and approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

RICHARD MAGGIO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the importance of Rent Stabilization in the City of West Hollywood and congratulated any outgoing Commissioners on their hard work and service to the City.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A. **AN APPEAL OF THE DENIAL OF MASSAGE PARLOR BUSINESS LICENSE #MSP-004681 BY DONGMEI CHEN DBA LYMPHATIC DREAMING HEALTH & BEAUTY LLC AT 7900 SANTA MONICA BLVD, SUITE 200, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046**

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider an appeal of the denial of Massage Parlor Business License Application #MSP-004681, for Dongmei Chen, owner of Lymphatic Dreaming Health & Beauty LLC, to be located at 7900 Santa Monica Boulevard, # 200, West Hollywood, CA 90046.

Chair Vulin opened the public hearing and asked for the Commission's disclosures.

Business License Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi, informed the Commission that all notices were posted at the City's three legally required posting locations and mailed to occupants within a 500-foot radius of the business.

Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, and Major Crimes Bureau Investigator, Michelle Hauser, provided background information as provided in the staff report dated December 6, 2022.

Commissioner Lo joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

ADAM BROWN, APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY, briefly explained that it was not his client's intention to mislead or deceive the City of West Hollywood during the application process. He stated that the allegations made against DONMEI CHEN were a misunderstanding due to a language barrier and asked that his client be given a second chance.

SETH MANDERS, APPLICANT'S HUSBAND, provided a heartfelt explanation of their mishaps and acknowledged the importance of moving forward with better record keeping. He shared his health history and how massage therapy has helped improve his health. He requested that his wife be given an opportunity to operate a women's only massage parlor.

DONMEI CHEN, APPLICANT, spoke about her profession and the benefits of massage therapy. Lastly, she asked for a second chance and promised to comply with the current regulations.

Commissioner Hang asked for clarification on the APPLICANT's work experience, licenses and questioned if she had received help when completing the business license application. DONME CHEN, APPLICANT, and her husband responded.

Commissioner Eng requested that the APPLICANT, explain how she received massage certification but not a license through California Massage Therapy

Council. SETH MANDERS, APPLICANT'S HUSBAND, explained and responded.

Vice Chair Eisenberg asked Major Crimes Bureau Investigator, Michelle Hauser, if she was aware of the language barrier between her and the applicant during the investigation. Major Crimes Bureau Investigator, Michelle Hauser, stated that she was aware of the language barrier and confirmed that a certified translator was present.

The Commission continued to discuss in detail the possible various dialects of Mandarin, the application process, inconsistencies in the application, and the background investigation.

Commissioner Yusupov asked about the background investigation process and the renewal process for the massage parlor business license. Major Crimes Bureau Investigator, Michelle Hauser, and Director of Community Safety, Danny Rivas, responded.

The Commission asked clarification questions regarding the background investigation to both the applicant and Major Crimes Bureau Investigator, Michelle Hauser.

Commissioner Yusopov motioned to reverse the denial decision made by City staff and approve the issuance of the Massage Parlor Business License for Dongmei Chen. Vice Chair Eisenberg seconded the motion.

ACTION: Adopt the revised Resolution No. BLC22-0011 to reverse the denial of a Massage Parlor Business License and issue the Massage Parlor Business License for Dongmei Chen. **Motion by Commissioner Yusupov, seconded by Commissioner Eisenberg and unanimously approved.**

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CITY EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND ITEMS RELATED TO BUSINESSES.

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission will receive an update regarding the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and City Executive Orders and items related to businesses.

Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, reported on the monthly Health Officer Order updates and provided background information as reflected on the staff report dated December 6, 2022.

ACTION: Receive and provide direction, as needed.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Director of Community Safety, Danny Rivas, provided a brief update on the upcoming Business License Commission meeting agenda items. He informed that the Community Safety Department held a press conference to provide crime prevention tips during this holiday season. The press release was also released to various media outlets and was placed on the City's website. Lastly, he informed the Commission that the newly appointed Councilmembers will be sworn in at the City Council meeting scheduled on December 19, 2022.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

12. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Lo wished everyone happy holidays and thanked City staff for their efforts. He inquired about the business license inventory for the City. Director of Community Safety, Danny Rivas responded.

Commissioner Hang wished everyone happy holidays. He then congratulated Mayor Meister, Councilmembers Byers and Heilman, and Supervisor Horvath.

Commissioner Eng also congratulated the newly appointed Councilmembers and Commissioners Lo and Saltzman as they were recognized at the last City Council meeting. She spoke about the cannabis businesses and inquired about their opening dates. Director of Community Safety, Danny Rivas responded. Lastly, she wished everyone happy holidays and thanked City staff.

Commissioner Yusupov wished everyone happy holidays and congratulated the newly appointed Councilmembers and Supervisor Horvath.

Vice Chair Eisenberg wished everyone happy holidays, congratulated the newly appointed Councilmembers and Supervisor Horvath, and thanked staff for their efforts.

Chair Vulin expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Chair. He then thanked the Commission and City staff. Additionally, congratulated newly appointed Councilmembers and Supervisor Horvath.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The West Hollywood Business License Commission adjourned at 7:36 P.M. to its next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at West Hollywood Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Business License Commission of the City of West Hollywood at a meeting held this 7th day of February 2023.

DocuSigned by:

Elyse Eisenberg

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ELYSE EISENBERG, VICE CHAIR

ATTEST:

Falyn Kingi

FALYN KINGI, COMMISSION SECRETARY