



AGENDA

LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

Liquor Control Commission: June 9, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Village Hall 740 Hillgrove Avenue, Western Springs, IL 60558

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of Minutes

1. September 30, 2025

C. Public Comment

D. Considerations

1. The Clever Drinker, 4354 Johnson Avenue, The Clever Drinker LLC - Class "O" Liquor License

E. Other Business

F. Adjournment

Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend / participate in this meeting and who require accommodations to allow them to observe and participate, or who have questions regarding accessibility of the meeting or facilities, please email accommodations@wsprings.com or contact Jill Izzo at 708-246-1800, extension 127.

Liquor Control Commission
Village Board Room
Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Brian J. Cronin
Member John F. Dixon
Heather Valone, Community Development Director
Anne Skrodzki, Village Attorney
Heidi Rudolph, Village President
Barb Kartzmark, Park District Manager of Community Relationships and Events

Call to Order: Chairman Cronin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Member Dixon was in attendance. Member DeRock was absent. There were no additions/deletions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Cronin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for August 25, 2025. Member Dixon seconded the motion to approve. A voice vote was conducted, and the minutes were approved with all two members voting aye.

Public Comment: There were no members of the public in attendance to speak or provide comments at this time in the meeting.

Western Springs Park District – Requests for Special Events Liquor License and Temporary Use Permit for Halloween Bash Chili Cook-Off 2025: Director Valone provided a brief overview of the application and explained that liquor has not been part of this event for the previous nine years that it was held, however they are looking to add it for this year.

Director Valone stated that the event is to be held on Saturday, October 25th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. They are looking to serve liquor and have last-call at 1:00 pm. Director Valone showed an image of the event map and explained that the Park District is proposing to have control of certain paths and use security guards to ensure that liquor consumption is held inside the event area.

Barb Kartzmark, representative for the Western Springs Park District, provided an overview of the local businesses that will be participating in the event this year. Both Ms. Kartzmark and Director Valone explained the layout of the event map, including locations of parking, security posts, vendors, various activities, etc.

Chairman Cronin asked questions related to the hours of operation of the event, if there is guidance in the code for start/stop times, and if liquor service will be over-the-counter. Ms. Kartzmark clarified that liquor will be served over-the-counter from tables.

Member Dixon asked what time the security will be at the event until. Ms. Kartzmark confirmed that security will be scheduled until 2:00 pm, however other members of staff will take their place if there are still patrons in the event space past that time.

Ms. Kartzmark explained the various duties of the security staff, including checking IDs and providing wristbands. Director Valone clarified that patrons will not be allowed to purchase alcohol without a wristband and a ticket, and that service will be provided by BASSET certified staff.

Chairman Cronin asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, Chairman Cronin

made a motion to propose to the Board that they accept this request for the Special Events Liquor License and Temporary Use Permit for Halloween Bash Chili Cook-Off 2025. Member Dixon seconded the motion to approve. Director Valone then did a roll call. Both Members voted “aye”. A secondary motion made by Chairman Cronin and seconded by member Dixon for staff to update the draft recommendation and provide signature. Member Dixon and Charmain Cronin both replied “aye”. Director Valone stated that this item will move to the Village Board’s agenda for October 13, 2025.

Other Business: None.

Adjournment: Chairman Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Dixon seconded the motion. A voice vote was conducted with both Trustees voting aye. Meeting is adjourned at 7:12 pm.



Heather Valone, AICP, Director of Community Development

Draft



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

Liquor Control Commission: June 9, 2026

AGENDA ITEM D.1.

To: Liquor Control Commission

From: Heather Valone, AICP, Director of Community Development

CC: Ellen Baer, Village Manager, Casey Biernacki, Deputy Village Manager, Jill Izzo, Deputy Village Clerk, Anne Skrodzki, Village Attorney, Sean Gilhooley, Director of Law Enforcement Services

RE: The Clever Drinker, 4354 Johnson Avenue, The Clever Drinker LLC - Class "O" Liquor License

Recommendation

Consider a recommendation to approve the requested Class "O" Liquor License.

Summary

Request

Aron Dorner and Alex Corral, managing members of The Clever Drinker LLC (the "Applicants"), have leased the space located at 4354 Johnson Avenue to open a specialty retail establishment primarily engaged in the sale of wine, craft beer, and artisanal spirits, with limited on-site consumption. The Applicants have submitted a request for a new Class "O" Liquor License (Craft Beer, Wine, and Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption and Packaged Sales).

The store will occupy a currently vacant tenant space of approximately 800 square feet. The Applicants have submitted a scope of work to complete cosmetic updates to the unit, as well as a layout for seating and retail sales areas. The preliminary permit plans show two tables generally sized for two seats each and two tasting areas with no additional seating (Figure 1).



Figure 1 The left is the top down view of the floor plan. The counters shown are remaining from the previous business.



The views are conceptual based on the floor plan.

The Applicants are proposing a three-phase business plan:

Phase 1:

Retail sales of wine, craft beer, and artisanal spirits, along with custom gift baskets including wine, artisanal pre-packaged foods, and accessories. Tasting opportunities for retail shoppers are also proposed. A monthly wine membership with limited pick-up events and tastings for members is included. No food preparation would occur on-site; however, partnerships with local restaurants are proposed. A monthly food truck and wine event is also proposed.

Phase 2:

Building upon the offerings of Phase 1, curated tastings and educational workshops hosted in the store are proposed. Tastings would consist of four to eight two-ounce pours per customer. Rental of the space for small private events (up to 10 people) is proposed. The Applicants are also planning to offer personal wine concierge services, including trip

planning, cellar curation, and event advising.

Phase 3:

Phase 3 expands on Phases 1 and 2 to include on-site consumption. The application materials indicate a “by-the-glass” program permitting customers to purchase drinks for onsite consumption. The Applicants propose limiting customers to three five-ounce pours.

Background

The Liquor Commissioner, President Heidi Rudolph, reviewed the application submittals and requested that the application be advanced to the General Government Committee (GGC) and Liquor Control Commission (LCC) for their respective review and recommendation. The application was reviewed separately by the members of the General Government Committee.

Class “O” License

The following is a summary of the Class “O” License regulations:

- **Purpose:** A Class “O” liquor license shall authorize the storage and retail sale of craft spirits, craft beer, domestic beer and wine (including cider, mead and other similar beverages) in their original containers or half (1/2) or full growlers/howlers, and the retail sale, service and on-site consumption of craft beer, wine and craft spirits or tastings of craft beer, wine and craft spirits in limited quantities as part of a promotional retail sale offered by or sponsored by the licensee during the authorized hours of operation. Single bottles or cans may also be sold for on-site consumption only. The licensee may also conduct tasting sessions at preregistered events or classes when the store is closed to the general public. Tastings, including the preregistered events or classes, shall be conducted only in the same room, and same area, as the display of craft beer, wine and craft spirits and shall occur only during the authorized hours of operation. Class “O” liquor license establishments are defined as any public place kept, used, maintained, advertised, and held out to the public as a place that offers craft spirits, wine and craft beer for retail, packaged sale and on-site consumption. A "craft beer" includes microbrewed beer brands, microbrew-styled beer brands and imported beer brands, but shall not include mass-produced domestic beer brands. "Craft spirits" means any spirit that has a retail cost of not less than twenty dollars (\$20.00) per bottle. "Mass-produced, domestic beer" means beer brands that are brewed in the United States and available nationwide and are not marketed as craft beer

- **Rules of Operation:**
 - Container and Package Specifications: The sale of kegs and single cans or bottles or other containers of beer, wine or other alcoholic beverages (for example, wine coolers, prepared mixed alcoholic beverages, and the like) for off-site consumption is prohibited, except as allowed in this subsection. The sale of single cans or bottles or other containers of craft beer or wine or craft spirits in

glass, metal or protective corrugated fiberboard box containers that are at least 375 milliliters in size is allowed. The sale of any alcoholic liquor packaged for sale in smaller than customary containers (for example, "airline bottles", flasks, and the like) is prohibited. The sale of single cans or bottles or other containers of craft beer or wine or craft spirits or other alcoholic beverages (for example, wine coolers, prepared mixed alcoholic beverages, and the like) in glass, metal or protective corrugated fiberboard box containers that are at least 350 milliliters in size, but less than 375 milliliters in size, is allowed, but only in pre-packaged four packs, six packs or 12 packs or the licensee may allow customers to mix alcoholic beverage brands that are at least 350 milliliters in size to create their own four packs or six packs for off-site consumption only. Mass-produced, domestic beer shall be available for retail package sales only, shall be located in the coolers in six-pack or 12-pack containers only and shall not occupy more than 10% percent of the cooler space allocated for retail beer sales. The sale of kegs and single cans or bottles for off-site consumption is prohibited except as specified. Single containers of craft beer, wine, or craft spirits of at least 375 ml are allowed. Alcoholic beverages between 350 ml and 375 ml may be sold only in pre-packaged four-packs, six-packs, or 12-packs, or customers may mix brands of at least 350 ml to create such packs for off-site consumption.

- Service Counter or Patron Bar: A service counter or patron bar shall be allowed for purposes of retail sale, service and onsite consumption of craft beer, wine and craft spirits or the conducting tastings of craft beer, wine or craft spirits.
- On-Site Consumption; Conduct Of Tastings: Craft beer, wine and craft spirits may be sold, given away or offered for sale and consumed onsite within the licensed premises only during the authorized hours of operation. The licensee may conduct or sponsor tasting sessions of craft beer, wine and craft spirits at preregistered events or classes when the store is closed to the general public, but only during the authorized hours of operation. In addition, the licensee may provide, at no charge, samples of craft beer, wine and craft spirits currently offered for sale served in limited quantities in a cup or glass for consumption within the licensed premises as part of a promotional retail sale offered by or sponsored by the licensee during the authorized hours of operation. A per-person charge may be collected by the licensee for attendance at a tasting session (a preregistered event or class) or the samples of craft beer, wine and craft spirits beer may be given away as part of such a tasting. All tastings shall be conducted only in the same room, and same area, as the liquor display area and shall occur only during the authorized hours of operation. Customers shall not be allowed to leave the licensed premises with an open bottle, container, cup or glass of craft beer, wine and craft spirits. There shall be no tastings of mass-produced, domestic beer.
- Liquor Display Areas: The liquor display area set aside for craft beer, wine and

craft spirits within the store shall not violate any applicable Building and Life Safety Codes. There shall be no floor displays advertising mass-produced, domestic beer or stacks of mass produced, domestic beer on the floor.

- BASSET Certification Required: The craft beer, wine, and spirits establishment owner, each employee of the store and any other person who sells or serves craft beer, spirits and wine to a patron or handles alcoholic liquor on the licensed premises must take and successfully complete a Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET) Program that has been certified by the State of Illinois. A copy of the BASSET course completion certificate(s) for the aforementioned persons shall be made available at all times at the licensed premises for inspection by the Village Manager, or his or her designee. An approved Liquor Manager is required to be on-site at all times. A copy of the current BASSET course completion certificate(s) for the on-site owner/manager, employees, and others mentioned above must be made available at all times at the licensed premises for inspection by the Village Manager or their designee.
- Hours of operation: Under a Class “O” Liquor License, a licensee shall be permitted to sell alcoholic liquor only: between the hours of eleven o'clock (11:00) A.M. and twelve o'clock (12:00) midnight on Mondays through Thursdays; between the hours of eleven o'clock (11:00) A.M. and one o'clock (1:00) A.M. on Fridays/Saturdays and Saturdays/Sundays (note: the one o'clock (1:00) A.M. closing time carries over to the next following day); and between the hours of eleven o'clock (11:00) A.M. and eleven o'clock (11:00) P.M. on Sundays, except alcoholic liquor may be sold, given away or offered for sale within the licensed premises between the hours of eleven o'clock (11:00) P.M. on New Year's Eve Day and one o'clock (1:00) A.M. on New Year's Day.
- **License Fee:** The Class “O” license includes a \$1,000 application fee and a \$1,000 annual license fee.
- **Availability of Food:** Pre-prepared and delivered foods shall be permitted and encouraged in the establishment for the enjoyment of patrons. Establishment owners shall endeavor to create business relationships with local and regional restaurants, and food delivery services.

The Applicants have submitted the required information for the background check per Section 4-1-17 of the Village Code. Results are being processed and will be provided at the LCC meeting.

Recommendation

The application was reviewed by the members of the General Government Committee and their comments will be presented by staff at the Liquor Control Commission (LCC) meeting on June 9, 2026. If the LCC is amenable to approving a Class “O” Liquor License, a motion can be made to recommend approval and refer the application to the Village Board for discussion and consideration. Attachments 2 and 3 contain the draft recommendation and ordinance for the

Class "O" Liquor License. A representative for the Applicants, Village Attorney, and staff will be available at the Liquor Control Commission meeting to discuss the request and answer any questions.

Attachments

1. Applicant Submittal Package
2. Draft Recommendation - Western Springs Local Liquor Control Commission Recommendation No. 26-01 Recommendation Relative To An Application For A New Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine, And Spirits Establishment License (On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales)) Liquor License Submitted By The Clever Drinker LLC For Operation Of A Specialty Retail Store For The Retail Sale Of Alcoholic Liquor In A Specialty Retail Store For Limited On Premise Consumption Only Within The Licensed Premises, Located At 4354 Johnson Avenue, Western Springs, Illinois and Packaged Sales.
3. Draft Ordinance - An Ordinance Amending Title 4 (Liquor Control) Of The Western Springs Municipal Code Relative To The Number Of A Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor Licenses Which Can Be Issued In The Village Of Western Springs, Cook County, Illinois For The Retail Sale Of Alcoholic Liquor In A Specialty Retail Store For Onsite Consumption And Packaged Sales Within The Licensed Premises Located At 4354 Johnson Avenue, Western Springs, Illinois (Applicant: The Clever Drinker LLC).

Financial Impact

None.

Recommended Motion

I move to recommend approval of the requested Class "O" Liquor License for The Clever Drinker LLC to the Village Board.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Community Planning and Economic Development.

File Attachments

1. Applicant Submittal Package
2. Draft Recommendation
3. Draft Ordinance

MUST BE FILED IN DUPLICATE WITH THE OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE MANAGER

**VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS
 COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 LOCAL LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION
 APPLICATION FOR RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE**

NEW/RENEWAL: Class 0 Liquor License
 (Non-Refundable Application Fee for
 Issuance of new Liquor License; One-Time Only Fee)

DATE: 5/4/2026

Honorable Presiding Village President and Local Liquor Control Commissioner
 Village of Western Springs, Illinois

Reference in this Application to an owner shall mean any person who is an owner of more than five percent (5%) of the corporation, a partner in a partnership or a member of a limited liability company, which is applying for the license. All questions must be answered completely. **QUESTIONS ARE TO BE ANSWERED ACCURATELY. IF QUESTIONS ARE NOT ANSWERED ACCURATELY, THE LICENSE WILL BE SUBJECT TO REVOCATION. IT WILL NOT BE A DEFENSE THAT ANSWERS WERE GIVEN TO THE BEST OF THE ANSWERER'S KNOWLEDGE. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ASCERTAIN THE ACCURACY OF YOUR RESPONSE. IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED TO FULLY RESPOND, ATTACH A SEPARATE PAGE(S).**

The undersigned (an owner), Aron Dorner (name), _____
 (title) of The Clever Drinker Ld/b/a None (business name and assumed name) makes application for a Class ON liquor license, at the address of 4354 Johnson Ave for the period ending March 31, 2029, and tenders the sum of \$ 1800, the prescribed fee as set forth in the following:

SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL FEES FOR THE VARIOUS CLASSES OF RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES (SECTIONS 3-3-2 and 4-1-9):		Application Fee	Annual Fee
CLASS A:	Full Service Restaurant with a Service Bar	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
CLASS B:	Full Service Restaurant with a Patron Bar	1,000.00	2,000.00
CLASS C:	Full Service Restaurant; Beer and Wine Only	1,000.00	1,000.00
CLASS D:	Limited-Service Restaurant License; Beer and Wine Only; No Patron or Service Bar	1,000.00	1,000.00
CLASS E:	Supermarket License	1,000.00	3,000.00
CLASS F:	Culinary School License	1,000.00	500.00
CLASS G:	Fine Wine, premium spirits and beer, gourmet food store	1,000.00	1,000.00
CLASS H:	Outdoor Liquor Café	500.00	150.00
CLASS I:	Special Event (Not-For-Profit Organization Owned or Leased Property)	400.00*	100.00**
CLASS J:	Special Event (Village-Owned Property (Beer And Wine Only)	400.00*	100.00**
CLASS K:	BYOB - Corkage License (Beer and Wine Only)	250.00	200.00
CLASS L:	Limited Special Event License; Tastings Of Beer And Wine And Beer And Wine Package Sales Only	345.00	357.00
CLASS M:	Theatre license	250.00	100.00
CLASS N:	Caterer's License	200.00	100.00
CLASS O:	Craft Beer, Wine, And Spirits Establishment License (On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales)	1,000.00	1,000.00
CLASS Q:	Wine Establishment License (Wine Tasting And Retail Wine Sales By The Bottle; On-Site Consumption)	1,000.00	1,000.00

* There is no special event license application fee for the holder of an existing Village-issued liquor license.

** The above \$100 fee is a "renewal application fee" payable by an applicant in subsequent years to renew a special event license. For each special event license (5 or fewer events in one calendar year), there is a \$25 per event fee, and for each additional event after the 5th event in one calendar year, there is a \$15 per event fee.

*** Class "N" fees are higher for those entities not currently holding a liquor license issued by the Village of Western Springs. Consult the Village Code for current fees.

AN OWNER MUST COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION. IF A MANAGER IS TO BE EMPLOYED BY THE OWNER, THE MANAGER WILL ALSO HAVE TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, WHICH WILL BE MARKED AS A "SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION." NO FEE WILL BE CHARGED TO PROCESS THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION. EACH LICENSE TERMINATES ON THE 31st DAY OF MARCH.

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN NOS. 1(A)-(S) MUST BE PROVIDED FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO WILL AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME BE THE PERSON ON THE PREMISES WHO HAS SUPERVISORY OR MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY OVER THE OTHER EMPLOYEES. PLEASE PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION ON SEPARATE SHEETS OF PAPER. EACH SUCH MANAGEMENT PERSON MUST BE FINGERPRINTED BY THE WESTERN SPRINGS DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES. APPOINTMENTS FOR FINGERPRINTING MUST BE MADE 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE. NO FINGERPRINTING WILL BE DONE WITHOUT SUCH AN APPOINTMENT.

SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THE ATTACHED "SPECIAL EVENT RIDER."

1. INFORMATION ON APPLICANT AND PERSON COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION. Pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 16 of the Western Springs Municipal Code, please provide the following information.

A. Name: Aron Dorner Male Female:

B. Mailing _____
 C. Address _____
 D. Home P _____
 E. Work P _____
 F. Citizens _____
 G. If natura _____
 H. Place of _____
 I. Driver's _____
 J. Height: _____
 K. Weight: _____
 L. Color of _____
 M. Color of _____
 N. Social S _____
 O. Vehicles _____
 P. Other ho _____

Street Address	City, State, ZIP	Dates	
		From	To
[REDACTED]			

Q. Businesses owned or operated within the last 5 years that required a liquor license, stating: (a) Name of business; (b) State and municipal liquor license numbers; (c) Address; and (d) Phone number.

Business Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Dates owned: From: _____ To: _____

Describe any liquor license incident requiring police intervention:

State liquor license #: _____ Date of license: _____

Municipal liquor license #: _____ Date of license: _____

Name, address and telephone number of municipality issuing liquor license: _____

R. Has any of the Applicant's liquor licenses ever been suspended or revoked? If so, explain: _____

S. State your relationship to the business for which the license is sought. _____

2. Description of the premises at which business will be operated. Additionally, attach a floor plan or site plan

Total square feet: 800 Bar area Sq. Ft.: _____ Kitchen area Sq. Ft.: _____

No. of tables: 1 Type of food served: Packaged/ outsourced

No. of parking spaces: 1

3. If this is a new license application, what kind of business was previously conducted in the space where you intend to operate your business? Bar

4. Name of corporation to which license is to be issued. The Clever Drinker LLC

5. Name, address and phone number under which the licensed business will be operated.

Business Name: The Clever Drinker LLC

Address: 4354 Johnson Ave Phone Number: +16309089760

6. Does the Applicant own the building or the space in which the business is located? Yes No

[Attach/include proof of ownership (e.g., a deed) to this Application].

7. Does the Applicant lease the building or the space in which the business is located? Yes No

The expiration date of the Lease is: 5/16/2029 [Attach a certified copy of Lease to this Application].

8. Is the nearest part of any church building used for worship services or educational programs within 100 feet of the nearest part of the proposed licensed premises? Yes No

9. Is any school (other than an institution of higher learning), hospital, home for the aged or indigent persons or for veterans, their spouses, or children within 100 feet of the center of the proposed licensed premises?

Yes No

10. Do you have or intend to have a manager or a management contract with another entity or person, who is not a bona fide employee, to manage the licensed business for you? Yes No

11. If the answer to Question Number 10 is "Yes," state the name, age, address and telephone number of the manager, or for a management company state the same information, as applicable, for the company and for any assigned representative of the company who will serve as the on-site manager.

Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

(The manager or management company must complete and submit an Application, which will be marked as a "Supplemental Application.")

12. How long has the Applicant been in the business of the retail sale of alcohol and describe the nature of its business experiences? na

13. Date of incorporation or organization of your company: 03/07/2023

(As applicable, attach a copy of the Articles of Incorporation, Articles of Organization, Shareholders Agreement, Operating Agreement and Partnership Agreement).

14. If the Applicant is a corporation or a limited liability company, has it ever been dissolved, either voluntarily or involuntarily? Yes No
If so, state the date of reinstatement: _____

15. If the Applicant is incorporated or organized in a state other than the State of Illinois, you must attach the document pursuant to which the company is qualified under Illinois law to transact business in Illinois.

16. List the names, addresses, dates of birth, telephone numbers and social security numbers of all Officers and Directors.

Name: Aron Dorner Address: [REDACTED]
Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Name: [REDACTED]
Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Name: _____ Address: _____ Office Held: _____
Date of Birth: _____ SS#: _____ Phone No.: _____

17. List the names, addresses, dates of birth and social security numbers of all partners (if a partnership), members (if a limited liability company), or shareholders who own in the aggregate more than 5% of the stock of the corporation.

Name: Alex Corral Address: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]
Name: Emily Dorner Address: [REDACTED]

18. Is the Applicant a subsidiary of a parent corporation? Yes No

If so, state the name, address and telephone number of the parent corporation. *(The Local Liquor Control Commission has the right to require that the parent company complete and submit this Application.)*

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone No: _____

19. Is the Applicant obligated to pay a percentage of profits to any person or entity not listed in Question Numbers 17 and 18? Yes No

If so, explain and identify the name, address and telephone number of such persons or entities: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone No: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone No: _____

20. Has the Applicant or any person listed in Questions Numbers 17 or 18 or any of your managers ever held another liquor license in the United States? Yes No

If so, state the dates, city and state of each license:

License Holder: _____ Date: _____

City and State: _____

License Holder: _____ Date: _____

City and State: _____

21. Has the Applicant or any person listed in Question Numbers 17 or 18 or any of your managers ever been denied a liquor license from any jurisdiction? Yes No

If so, state the date of particulars: _____

22. Has the Applicant or any person listed in Question Numbers 17 or 18 or any of your managers ever had a previous liquor license (whether wholesale or retail) revoked by the Federal Government or by any state, county or local government? Yes No

If so, explain: _____

23. Other than when making an initial application for a license, has the Applicant or any predecessor to or subsidiary or corporate parent entity of the Applicant ever been subject to charges, hearing violations, or citations of the "State Liquor Control Act of 1934" and any local liquor ordinance with respect to a liquor license? Yes No

If yes, please state the following:

Previous Licensor: _____ Licensee Name(s): _____

Licensee(s) Address: _____

Address of Licensed Premises: _____

Names of the licensed establishment and the date or dates of such revocation or suspension: _____

24. If the answer to either Question Numbers 22 or 23 is "Yes," **describe on a separate page** for each and every charge, violation, or citation: a) the date of the charge; b) the final disposition of the charge; and c) name, address and telephone number of the municipality or other jurisdiction bringing the charge.

If no charges were involved, state the reason for the investigation or hearing: _____

25. Has the Applicant or any person listed in Question Numbers 17 and 18 or any of your managers ever been found guilty of a felony or a misdemeanor, including but not limited to any gambling offense, concerning the sale or use of illegal drugs or any alcohol related traffic offense? Yes No

If so, explain the charge, the date, the city and state where the charge was brought, and the disposition. This must include all findings of guilty, whether subsequently vacated or not and shall specifically include any orders of court supervision, whether satisfactorily completed or not.

Name of Person: _____ Charge: _____
Date: _____ City and State: _____
Disposition: _____

Name of Person: _____ Charge: _____
Date: _____ City and State: _____
Disposition: _____

26. Please attach a verified financial statement showing the assets and liabilities of the Applicant dated no later than thirty (30) days prior to date of the Application. Additionally, a verified financial statement must be submitted for all persons who will share in the profits or losses of a limited liability company or a partnership, which seeks a liquor license, as well as for shareholders owning more than five percent (5%) of a corporation which applies for a license.

27. The Applicant's Retailer Occupational Tax Registration (ROT) Number: _____
The Applicant's Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN): 92-2763465

28. Is the Applicant delinquent in the payment of the Retailer's Occupational Tax (sales tax)? Yes No

If the answer is "Yes," explain: _____

29. Is any person listed in Question Numbers 17 and 18 or any of your managers an elected public official? Yes No

If yes, state the office and unit of government: _____

30. Is any other person directly or indirectly connected with the operation, ownership or management of the Applicant's place of business or the premises to be licensed an elected public official? Yes No

If yes, state the particulars: _____

31. Does any person listed in Question Numbers 17 or 18 or any of your managers hold any law enforcement office?
 Yes No

If yes, name the person, title and agency:

Person: _____ Title: _____

Agency: _____

(When answering Question Numbers 32 through 39, the term "person" shall include any partnership in which the person was a partner, any limited liability company in which the person was a member, or any corporation in which the person was or is more than a 5% shareholder).

32. In the past two years, has any person listed in Question Numbers 17 or 18 or have any of your managers made any political contributions to any member of the Western Springs Board of Trustees or to any member of the Illinois State Liquor Commission? [REDACTED]

33. If the answer to question number 32 is "Yes," identify each contribution and the amount:

Contribution: _____ Amount: _____

Contribution: _____ Amount: _____

Contribution: _____ Amount: _____

34. Does any person listed in Question Numbers 17 and 18 or any of your managers possess a current Federal Wagering or Gambling Device Stamp? [REDACTED]

If yes, state the reasons: _____

35. State the value of goods, wares and merchandise to be used in the business that are purchased and on hand at this time: Nothing at this time

36. If this is a renewal application, has the ownership or management changed in any manner since the prior application? Yes No

If yes, please explain the nature of the change(s): _____

37. Does the business that is proposed to be licensed currently carry Dram Shop insurance coverage for the premises or have a binder for Dram Shop Insurance coverage to be issued upon approval of the liquor license?

Yes No

If yes, attach a copy of the insurance certificate or binder. The Applicant should provide the Village Manager with at least a binder during the application review process in order to expedite the consideration of the application. A certificate of insurance meeting the requirements of Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 20 of the Western Springs Municipal Code must be provided to the Village Manager following license approval in order for a liquor license to be issued.

38. Pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 15 of the Western Springs Municipal Code, no license shall be issued if any of the below statements cannot be answered in the affirmative by the Applicant. By signing this Application, the Applicant affirmatively states that the Applicant is:
- A. A person who is a resident of the Village (unless Subsections J, K or L apply).
 - B. A person of good character and reputation in the community in which he or she resides.
 - C. A person who is a citizen of the United States.
 - D. A person who has not been convicted of a felony under any federal or state law, unless the Local Liquor Control Commissioner determines, after investigation, that such person has been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust after considering matters set forth in such person's application and the Commission's investigation. The burden of proof of sufficient rehabilitation shall be on the applicant.
 - E. A person who has not been convicted of being the keeper of or is not keeping a house of ill fame.
 - F. A person who has not been convicted of pandering, sexual molestation or other crime or misdemeanor opposed to decency and morality.
 - G. A person whose license to sell alcoholic liquor, whether issued under this Chapter or by any other governmental entity, has not been revoked for cause.
 - H. A person who at the time of application for renewal of license issued hereunder would be eligible for such license upon a first application.
 - I. A partnership, and all of the partners of such partnership qualified to obtain a license as individuals except for reason of residency.
 - J. A copartnership, if any general partnership thereof, or any limited partnership thereof, owning more than 5% of the aggregate limited partner interest in such copartnership would not be eligible to receive a license hereunder for any reason other than residence within the Village.
 - K. A corporation where:
 - (i.) No officer, manager or director thereof, or any stockholder or stockholders owning in the aggregate more than five percent (5%) of the stock of such corporation, is ineligible to receive a license hereunder for any reason other than citizenship and residency; and
 - (ii.) It is incorporated in Illinois and is in good standing under the laws of Illinois, or if an out of state or foreign corporation which is qualified under the Illinois Business Corporation Act to transact business in Illinois, it is in good standing under the state of incorporation.
 - L. A limited liability company where:
 - (i.) No officer, manager or director owning more than 5% of the aggregate ownership interest in such company is ineligible to receive a license hereunder for any reason hereunder other than citizenship and residency; and
 - (ii.) It is organized in Illinois and is in good standing under the laws of Illinois, or if an out of state or foreign limited liability company which is qualified under Illinois law to transact business in Illinois, it is in good standing under the state of organization.
 - M. A person whose place of business is conducted and physically controlled and operated by a manager or agent and such manager or agent possesses the same qualifications required of an individual licensee hereunder.
 - N. A person who has not been convicted of a violation of any federal or state law concerning the sale or use of illegal drugs, or the manufacture, possession or sale of alcoholic liquor, or has not forfeited his bond to appear in court to answer charges of any such violation, unless the Local Liquor Control Commissioner determines, after investigation, that such person has been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust after considering matters set forth in such person's application and the Commission's investigation. The burden of proof of sufficient rehabilitation shall be on the applicant.
 - O. A person who either owns the premises (or the beneficial interest in a land trust owning the premises) for which a license is sought, or has a lease thereon for the full period for which the license is to be issued.

- P. A person who is a beneficial owner of the business to be operated by the licensee.
- Q. A person who is not a law enforcing public official, the village president, member of the board of trustees, member of the local liquor control commission or any other elected public official, unless said applicant is a member of the board of trustees (except for the village president who serves as the local liquor commissioner) who seeks a license in relation to premises that are located within the Village, provided (i) the sale of alcoholic liquor pursuant to the license is incidental to the selling of food, (ii) the issuance of the license is approved by the State Commission, (iii) the issuance of the license is in accordance with all applicable local ordinances in effect where the premises are located, and (iv) the official granted a license does not vote on alcoholic liquor issues pending before the Village Board.
- R. A person or entity to whom a federal wagering stamp has not been issued by the federal government for the current tax period unless the person or entity is eligible to be issued a license under the Raffles Act or the Illinois Pull Tabs and Jar Games Act.
- S. A person who has not been convicted of a gambling offense as proscribed by any of subsections (a) (3) through (a) (11) of Section 28-1 of, or as proscribed by Section 28-1.1 or 28-3 of, the Criminal Code of 1961, or as proscribed by a statute replaced by any of the aforesaid statutory provisions.
- T. A person who is twenty-one (21) years of age or older.

39. Pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 16 of the Western Springs Municipal Code, by signing this Application, the Applicant affirmatively states that:

- A. The Applicant has not been convicted of a felony or any other offenses prohibited under Title 4 of the Western Springs Municipal Code.
- B. The Applicant will not violate any of the laws of the Village, the State or of the United States in the conduct or operation of the place of business to be licensed.

40. The Applicant shall complete and submit with this Application an Authorization for Release of Information Relative to Application for Retail Liquor License on a form approved by the Village.

IF A NEW MANAGER HAS BEEN OR IS ADDED TO THE BUSINESS. THAT PERSON MUST CONTACT THE WESTERN SPRINGS DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES, (708) 246-1800, TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT TO BE FINGERPRINTED AND MUST SUBMIT A SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION. THE APPOINTMENT SHOULD BE MADE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

A LIQUOR LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE. IF YOU ANTICIPATE A SALE OF THE BUSINESS, OR A CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OR MANAGEMENT. IT IS YOUR SOLE RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSURE THAT THE REQUIRED NOTIFICATION AND/OR REAPPLICATION PROCESS IS STARTED AT LEAST 120 DAYS PRIOR TO THE CHANGE. ALL INVESTIGATIONS BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE LOCAL LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSIONER AND LOCAL LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER THE APPLICATION.

SIGNATORY PAGE

Corporate Seal
(If applicant is corporation)

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
COUNTY OF C O O K)

The undersigned, Aron Dorner, first being duly sworn, under oath deposes and says that he is/are the Applicant(s) for the license requested in the foregoing Application; that he is/are of good repute, character and standing and that answers to the questions asked in the foregoing Application are true and correct in every detail. I further state that I have read and understand the Code provisions of the Western Springs Municipal Code that govern the sale and delivery of alcoholic beverages. I further agree not to violate any of the laws of the State of Illinois, the United States of America or any of the ordinances of the Village of Western Springs in the conduct of my place of business.

I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT AN UNTRUE, INCORRECT OR MISLEADING ANSWER GIVEN IN THIS APPLICATION IS SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR THE REFUSAL TO GRANT OR THE REVOCATION OF ANY LICENSE GRANTED PURSUANT TO THIS APPLICATION.

I further give my permission to the Village of Western Springs or any agency of the Village to check with any agency or individual named or referred to in this Application to verify or clarify any answer that I have given.



APPLICANT

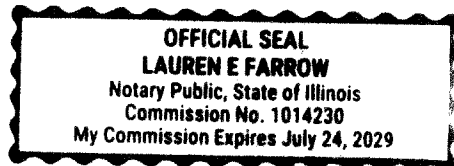
Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 5 day of 4, 2026

Lauren Farrow

NOTARY PUBLIC

APPLICATION APPROVED

Local Liquor Control Commissioner



Date: _____

Business Plan: The Clever Drinker LLC**Date: May 5, 2026****Founders: Aron & Emily Dorner****Contact: 630-908-9760 - adorner86@gmail.com**

1.0 Executive Summary

The Clever Drinker LLC is a modern, service-oriented wine retail and concierge business founded by Aron Dorner, a former London resident, bringing a worldly yet approachable perspective to the Western Springs community. Our mission is to demystify the world of wine by providing expertly sourced bottles, a curated monthly membership club, bespoke gifting services, and personal wine concierge services.

We will focus on building a strong client base through our retail sales, subscription program, concierge services, and by engaging with the community through partnerships with local businesses and participation in Village events, where legally permitted.

We are seeking the appropriate Village and State of Illinois licenses to allow for the sale of packaged alcoholic beverages, host small, intimate events, and to permit us to serve at sanctioned and/or ticketed external events. Our operational model is built on a foundation of safety, compliance, and responsible service to ensure we are a valued and respected member of the Western Springs business community.

2.0 Company Description

- Business Name: Clever Drinker LLC
- Location: 4534 Johnson Ave. This space was formerly occupied by Opry Provisions. We do not have plans to substantially change the interior of this unit. Rather, we will paint it and change furnishings for decorative and aesthetic purposes. Renderings are attached hereto in **Appendix A**.
- Hours of operation: Tuesday-Saturday 12pm - 8pm
- Legal Structure: Limited Liability Company, registered in the State of Illinois.
- Mission Statement: To provide a clever, curated, and unfussy approach to wine, making exceptional bottles and bespoke wine experiences accessible to our community.
- Founder's Background: Our founder's perspective is uniquely shaped by years spent in London, fostering a deep appreciation for both classic European wines and the modern, global wine scene. This background informs our "clever but not pretentious" philosophy, focusing on the story and quality behind every bottle.

- Business Philosophy: We believe choosing a great wine should be a simple pleasure. The Clever Drinker removes the intimidation factor by providing thoughtful curation and personal guidance, whether a customer is buying a single bottle, joining our club, or planning a milestone event.

3.0 Services Offered

The Clever Drinker will focus on a multi-faceted service model that we hope to grow according to the following timeline:

Phase 1

- Retail Sales: We will provide customers with a meticulously selected collection of wines from artisanal producers, focusing on quality, story, and technical excellence. We will also provide a limited selection of craft beers, canned cocktails, and spirits. Customers can expect professional guidance each time they shop, ensuring a personalized shopping experience that exceeds traditional retail standards. Customers will also be able to order for pickup through our website.
- Food: We will not prepare food on-premises. That said, we plan to partner with local licensed businesses to offer our customers small snack-like food options such as meats, cheeses, and crackers. All consumable products will be appropriately handled, sourced, and packaged in accordance with applicable requirements. We plan to partner with local businesses such as GP Italiano to host a pizza truck + wine on a monthly basis during weather-permitting months.
- Monthly Wine Membership: A subscription-based club where members receive two thoughtfully selected bottles of wine each month, complete with tasting notes and pairing suggestions. We may host membership “pickup parties” where members can stop in to pick up their monthly membership items and taste new wines that we are excited to share.
- Custom Gift Baskets & Hampers: Bespoke gift baskets and traditional British-style hampers featuring our wines, artisanal foods, and accessories for holidays and special occasions.

Phase 2

- Tastings: Curated tastings and educational workshops hosted within the retail space will build brand loyalty and drive product sales. A typical tasting will consist of a 2 oz pour of between 4-8 wines.
- Events: We are interested in hosting small, personal events, such as a 10 person private tasting to celebrate a milestone event.
- Personal Wine Concierge Services:

- Trip Planning: Advising and helping to plan bespoke trips to global wine regions (e.g., Napa, Champagne, Loire Valley).
- Cellar Curation: Providing services to help clients build, organize, and manage personal wine collections.
- Event Advising: Curating wine selections for private parties, dinners, and large events.

Phase 3

- By the Glass Program: We are interested in having a small by-the-glass program where customers can come in and have a glass of wine while they shop, or alternatively sit down and take a small break and relax with a glass of wine. This phase will consist of 8-10 wines by the glass as an option for our patrons. A usual pour will consist of 3 and 5 oz pours dependent on the offering.

4.0 Operations Plan

- Business Model: The Clever Drinker will operate as a retail storefront with a parallel e-commerce storefront.
- Wine Sourcing: All alcoholic beverages will be purchased from licensed Illinois distributors in accordance with the state's three-tier system.
- Inventory Storage: Wine inventory will be stored on-site and secured via various levels of security depending on whether the store is open or closed.

5.0 Community Engagement & Responsible Service

- Community Partnership: We believe in supporting fellow local businesses. Our model for gift hampers and tasting events is designed to create collaborative opportunities with local florists, restaurants, and other retailers in Western Springs.
- Responsible Service Commitment:

- All principals and any future employees involved in the handling or delivery of alcohol will be BASSET certified.
- We will maintain a strict policy against service or delivery to minors or intoxicated persons.
- Our online platform will feature age gates and clear messaging about responsible consumption.

6.0 Licensing Request

The Clever Drinker LLC intends to operate in full compliance with all regulations set forth by the Village of Western Springs and the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC). We respectfully request guidance on and approval for the most appropriate local liquor license for our e-commerce and delivery-based model, which we believe may be a form of Package Liquor License that permits online sales and local delivery, in conjunction with the permissions needed for off-site event catering. We are committed to being a responsible, transparent, and valuable addition to the Western Springs community.

Appendix A







Sip Smarter.

From finding the perfect bottle for tonight to curating your cellar or planning a trip to wine country, Clever Drinker brings a worldly, modern approach to all things wine, right here in the heart of Western Springs.

Curated, Personal, Local

[Shop All](#)

WESTERN SPRINGS LOCAL LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION NO. 26-01

Recommendation Relative To An Application For A New Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine, And Spirits Establishment License (On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales)) Liquor License Submitted By The Clever Drinker LLC For Operation Of A Specialty Retail Store For The Retail Sale Of Alcoholic Liquor In A Specialty Retail Store For Limited On Premise Consumption Only Within The Licensed Premises, Located At 4354 Johnson Avenue, Western Springs, Illinois and Packaged Sales.

WHEREAS, The Clever Drinker, LLC (managing members: Aron Dorner and Alex Corral) (the "Applicant") has filed a liquor license application (the "Application") and the required application fees with the Village of Western Springs ("Village") for a Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine, And Spirits Establishment License (On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales)) Liquor License. The Applicant requests to operate a specialty retail establishment primarily engaged in the sale of wine, craft beer, and artisanal spirits for limited consumption within the premises located at 4354 Johnson Avenue, Western Springs, Illinois (the "Specialty Retail Store" or the "Licensed Premises") and packaged sales. The Application is incorporated herein by reference as **Group Exhibit "A"**.

WHEREAS, under the Liquor Control Ordinance, a Local Liquor Control Commission has been created to assist the Commissioner with the investigation and processing of liquor license applications and applicants and to perform certain other duties at the direction of the Commissioner. The Commission's duties include the review of liquor applications, the review of the investigation of applicants for liquor licenses as well as the submission of recommendations to the Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, after receipt by the Village Clerk, copies of the Application were distributed to the Commissioner, the members of the Commission, the Village Manager, the Director of Law Enforcement Services, the Director of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Director of Finance, the Building and Zoning Officer, and the Village Attorney. Each of the members of the Commission has reviewed the Application; and

WHEREAS, in regard to its investigation of and consideration of the Application, the Commission held a public meeting on June 9, 2026, pursuant to proper notice being posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. During this public meeting, the legal counsel for the Applicant made a presentation regarding its Application, the Village staff gave reports relative to the background check and investigative activities performed with respect to the Application, members of the Commission examined, under oath, the Applicant/Owner, its representatives and all other individuals who spoke during the public meeting, and an opportunity for public input was provided; and

WHEREAS, the necessary background check and fingerprinting of the representatives of the Applicant/Owner was performed by the Department of Law Enforcement Services. The Director of Finance has determined that the Applicant/Owner is not delinquent in the payment of the retailer's occupation tax, sales tax, or any other financial debt or obligation owed to the Village. On this information, the Applicant/Owner was found by Village staff to still be eligible for a liquor license under the provisions of the Illinois Liquor Control Act of 1934 and the Village's Liquor Control Ordinance, and the Applicant/Owner was found to be in compliance with the other applicable sections of the Village's Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing information and activities, the Commission makes a recommendation to the Commissioner as set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WESTERN SPRINGS LOCAL LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION FINDS AND RECOMMENDS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Findings. Based on the information contained in the Application and the investigations performed by the Village staff and the information and testimony received at the Public Meeting, the Western Springs Local Liquor Control Commission finds:

- A. *The Applicant would qualify for a Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine, And Spirits Establishment License (On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales)) Liquor License under the provisions of the Illinois Liquor Control Act of 1934 and the Village's Liquor Control Ordinance.*

SECTION 2: Recommendation and Conditions. Based on the information contained in the Application and the investigations performed by the Village staff and the information and testimony received at the Public Meeting, the Western Springs Local Liquor Control Commission recommends:

Class "D" (Limited – Service Restaurant License; Beer and Wine Only; No Patron or Service Bar) and Class "E" (Supermarket) Liquor Licenses

- A. **Approval / Denial** of the Applicant/Owner's Application for a Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine, And Spirits Establishment License (On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales)) and *Class "N" (Caterer's License)* Liquor Licenses.
- B. **Approval / Denial** by the Village Board and the Commissioner of the draft Ordinances, copies of which are attached to this Recommendation as part of **Group Exhibit "B"**, which is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4 (LIQUOR CONTROL) OF THE WESTERN SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF CLASS "O" (CRAFT BEER, WINE AND SPIRITS ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE; ON-SITE CONSUMPTION AND PACKAGED SALES) LIQUOR LICENSES WHICH CAN BE ISSUED IN THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE RETAIL SALE OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR IN A SPECIALTY RETAIL STORE FOR AND ONSITE CONSUMPTION AND PACKAGED WITHIN THE LICENSED PREMISES LOCATED AT 4354 JOHNSON AVENUE, WESTERN SPRINGS, ILLINOIS (APPLICANT: The Clever Drinker LLC)

- C. Approval of the following additional conditions: **INSERT**

A motion was made to approve the Recommendation for the Liquor License listed above, the motion was seconded, and then the motion was approved by a _____ () to _____ () vote of the Commissioners (motion by: _____; seconded by: _____).

PASSED by the Western Springs Local Liquor Control Commission at a meeting held on the 9th day of June, 2026.

VOTE: Peter Glimco, Doug DeRock and John F. Dixon

AYES:

NAYS:
ABSENT:
OTHER:

The above vote has been certified by me this 9th day of June, 2026.

Pete Glimco, Chair

Draft

Group Exhibit "A"

**Liquor License Application for "O" (Craft Beer, Wine, And Spirits Establishment License
(On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales)) and Class "N"
(Caterer's License) Liquor Licenses and Attachments**

(incorporated herein by reference)

and

Draft

Group Exhibit "B"

Draft

ORDINANCE NO. 26-_____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4 (LIQUOR CONTROL) OF THE WESTERN SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF CLASS "O" (CRAFT BEER, WINE AND SPIRITS ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE; ON-SITE CONSUMPTION AND PACKAGED SALES) LIQUOR LICENSE WHICH CAN BE ISSUED IN THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE RETAIL SALE OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR IN A SPECIALTY RETAIL STORE FOR AND ONSITE CONSUMPTION AND PACKAGED WITHIN THE LICENSED PREMISES LOCATED AT 4354 JOHNSON AVENUE, WESTERN SPRINGS, ILLINOIS (APPLICANT: The Clever Drinker LLC)

(attached)

ORDINANCE NO. 26- _____

VOTE: _____

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

DATE: June 15, 2026.

OTHER: Roll Call Vote.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4 (LIQUOR CONTROL) OF THE WESTERN SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF A CLASS "O" (CRAFT BEER, WINE AND SPIRITS ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE; ON-SITE CONSUMPTION AND PACKAGED SALES) LIQUOR LICENSES WHICH CAN BE ISSUED IN THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE RETAIL SALE OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR IN A SPECIALTY RETAIL STORE FOR ONSITE CONSUMPTION AND PACKAGED SALES WITHIN THE LICENSED PREMISES LOCATED AT 4354 JOHNSON AVENUE, WESTERN SPRINGS, ILLINOIS (APPLICANT: The Clever Drinker LLC)

WHEREAS, The Clever Drinker LLC (managing members: Aron Dorner and Alex Corral) (the "Applicant/Owner") filed a liquor license application and the required application fee with the Village of Western Springs ("Village") for a Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) a Liquor License (the "Application") for purposes of sale of alcoholic liquor in a specialty retail establishment primarily engaged in the sale of wine, craft beer, and artisanal spirits for limited consumption within the premises located at 4354 Johnson Avenue, Western Springs, Illinois (the "Specialty Retail Store" or the "Licensed Premises") and packaged sales. The Application is incorporated into this Ordinance by reference; and

WHEREAS, the Local Liquor Control Commission (the "Commission") held a public meeting on June 9, 2026 in regard to the Application for a Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License and issued its Recommendation No. 26-01 relative to the Application on that date. A copy of Recommendation No. 26-01 is incorporated by reference into this Ordinance. The Commission recommended that the Village Board approve the Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License to the Applicant/Owner, subject to the conditions set forth in Recommendation No. 26-01; and

WHEREAS, at its June 15, 2026, Meeting, the General Government Committee ("Committee") considered the Applicant/Owner's Application for a Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor Licenses and then received and considered input from Village staff and provided an opportunity for public input regarding the Application. At the June 2, 2026, meeting, the Committee recommended that the Village Board approve issue a Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License to the Applicant/Owner; and

WHEREAS, the Local Liquor Control Commissioner has reviewed the Application and Recommendation No. 26-01 issued by the Commission and the Committee's recommendation and is supportive of Village Board approval of the issuance of a Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits

Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License to the Applicant/Owner; and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Western Springs find that the Applicant/Owner is eligible to hold a Class “O” (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License, and is also in good standing with the Village and the Local Liquor Control Commissioner.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Incorporation. Each Whereas paragraph set forth above is incorporated by reference into this Section 1.

SECTION 2: Approval of Amendment to Liquor License Ordinance. The President and Board of Trustees approve an amendment to Title 4 (Liquor Control), Chapter 1 (Alcoholic Liquor), Section 4-1-10A(15a) (Limitation on Number of Licenses) of the Western Springs Municipal Code to increase the number of Class “O” (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor Licenses that can be issued by the Local Liquor Control Commissioner from zero (0) to one (1) for purposes of the issuance of a Class “O” (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License to The Clever Drinker LLC to permit the sale of alcoholic liquor at specialty retail establishment primarily engaged in the sale of wine, craft beer, and artisanal spirits for limited consumption within the premises located at 4354 Johnson Avenue, Western Springs, Illinois (the “Specialty Retail Store” or the “Licensed Premises”) and packaged sales. Upon issuance of the Class “O” (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License by the Local Liquor Control Commissioner, Section 4-1-10A(15a) (Limitation on Number of Licenses) of the Western Springs Municipal Code shall be created to read, in its entirety, as follows (new text is marked with underlining; deletions to existing text marked using strikethrough):

“a. The Clever Drinker LLC for a specialty retail store located at 4354 Johnson Avenue, Western Springs, Illinois.”

SECTION 3: Authorization to Issue New Class “O” (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License Subject to Conditions. The President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Western Springs authorize the Local Liquor Control Commissioner to issue a Class “O” (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License created under Section 3 of this Ordinance to The Clever Drinker, LLC for the sole purpose of permitting the sale at retail of alcoholic liquor in a specialty retail store for consumption only within the Licensed Premises located at 4354 Johnson Avenue, Western Springs, Illinois, SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH BELOW IN SECTION 4.

SECTION 4: Conditions for New Class “O” (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License and Applicant. The Local Liquor Control Commissioner shall not issue the Class “O” (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License to The Clever Drinker LLC until the following conditions

are satisfied, which conditions must be complied with for the duration of the Liquor License (as applicable):

A. The Applicant/Owner shall provide to the Village Manager written proof from an insurer that the required Dram Shop Insurance (minimum \$1,000,000 coverage limits per Section 4-1-20 (Insurance Requirements) of the Municipal Code) has been purchased to cover the retail sale of alcoholic liquor to patrons of the Licensed Premises.

B. The Applicant/Owner shall obtain and maintain a business license from the Village for the Licensed Premises.

C. There shall be one or more on-site managers, who has applied to the Village and is qualified to serve in such capacity under the Village's Liquor Control Ordinance, physically present within the Licensed Premises at all times that alcoholic liquor is being sold.

D. The following individuals shall serve as the initial on-site managers: Aron Dorner and/or Alex Corral. If additional on-site managers are necessary to operate the convenience retail location, or the above-listed initial on-site manager is replaced, the Applicant/Owner and the new, proposed on-site managers are each required to file with the Village a completed Supplemental Liquor Application signed by the proposed on-site manager that satisfies the liquor license eligibility and application requirements of the Village's Liquor Control Ordinance (Title 4). The proposed on-site managers must satisfactorily pass the required criminal background check and the required Village staff investigations. Copies of the Supplemental Liquor Application, criminal background check report and Village staff investigation reports shall be submitted to the Local Liquor Control Commissioner and the Village Attorney for review.

E. The Applicant/Owner and its on-site manager(s) shall meet periodically with the Local Liquor Control Commissioner, at their request, to discuss the retail sale of alcoholic liquor in the convenience retail location and shall provide the Commissioner with information relative to its operations upon request.

F. The Applicant/Owner and its on-site manager(s) shall comply with all of the applicable provisions of federal, State and county laws and regulations, and the Western Springs Municipal Code, including, without limitation, the regulations of Title 4 (Liquor Control Ordinance) as well as the regulations for a "O" (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License set forth at Section 4-1-9(O) (Class O Liquor License), the applicable provisions of the Illinois Liquor Control Act of 1934, including the State laws governing retail sales of alcoholic liquor, the conditions set forth in this Section 4 and any other conditions or regulations imposed from time to time by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village or the Local Liquor Control Commissioner.

G. All retail sales of alcoholic liquor pursuant to the Class "O" (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License shall take place within the Restaurant Establishment at 4354 Johnson Avenue , Western Springs, Illinois.

H. Alcoholic liquor shall be sold by the Basset-trained staff who are at least 21 years old. The staff shall sell alcoholic liquor only to patrons who are 21 years old or older.

I. Hours: The operation of the convenience retail liquor sales shall be permitted only for Regular Hours Of Operation between the hours of eleven o'clock (11:00) A.M. and twelve o'clock (12:00) midnight on Mondays through Thursdays; between the hours of eleven o'clock (11:00) A.M. and one o'clock (1:00) A.M. on Fridays/Saturdays and Saturdays/Sundays (note: the one o'clock (1:00) A.M. closing time carries over to the next following day); and between the hours of eleven o'clock (11:00) A.M. and eleven o'clock (11:00) P.M. on Sundays, except alcoholic liquor may be sold, given away or offered for sale within the licensed premises between the hours of eleven o'clock (11:00) P.M. on New Year's Eve Day and one o'clock (1:00) A.M. on New Year's Day.

J. The assumed name or “doing business as” name and any related signage that is used by the Applicant/Owner shall conform to the applicable regulations of Title 4 (Liquor Control) of the Western Springs Municipal Code.

K. If within **one hundred eighty (180) calendar days of the approval date of this Ordinance** the Local Liquor Control Commissioner has not issued the Class “O” (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License to the Applicant/Owner or advised in writing of their intention to issue the Class “O” (Craft Beer, Wine And Spirits Establishment License; On-Site Consumption And Packaged Sales) Liquor License upon satisfaction of one or more conditions then this Ordinance shall automatically become null and void without any further action or notice by the Corporate Authorities of the Village or the Local Liquor Control Commissioner.

L. The President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Western Springs or the Local Liquor Control Commissioner shall have the right to impose additional regulations and conditions on the Applicant/Owner and its on-site manager(s) relative to its retail sale of alcoholic liquor any time during the initial license year or any time thereafter when a renewal license is in effect.

M. The Applicant/Owner and its on-site store manager(s) shall comply with all of the applicable provisions of the Western Springs Municipal Code, including, without limitation, the regulations of the Village’s Liquor Control Ordinance (Title 4) as well as the regulations for a Class “O” (Craft Beer, Wine, and Spirits Establishment License (On-site consumption and packaged sales)) Liquor License set forth at Section 4-1-9(O), the conditions set forth in this Section 3, and any other conditions or regulations imposed from time to time by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village or the Local Liquor Control Commissioner.

N. As part of operating a craft beer, wine and spirits store and food and coffee shop under a Class “O” (Craft Beer, Wine, and Spirits Establishment License (On-site consumption and packaged sales)) Liquor License at the 4354 Johnson Avenue property, the Applicant/Owner and its on-site manager(s) agree to operate a separate, dedicated cash register or sales tracking system for purposes of tracking the retail sales of food and alcoholic beverages.

O. Alcoholic liquor shall be sold by the Bassett/TIPS-trained staff who are at least 21 years old.

P. Tastings conducted in the Licensed Premise will be limited to a maximum of eight (8) tastings per person. Taskings will be limited to two (2) ounce pours.

Q. Purchase of beverages by the glass will be limited to three (3) beverages per person. Beverages for purchase by the glass will be limited five (5) ounces.

R. The specialty retail store will contain retail items for sale in addition to acholoic beverages as described in **Exhibit A**.

S. The Applicant/Owner must comply with all restrictions related to packaged sale, definitions, and restrictions as defined in Section 4-1-9(O) (Class O License) of the Western Springs Municipal Code.

SECTION 5: Conflicts and Repealer. Any Ordinance, or portion thereof, in conflict herewith is repealed to the extent of such conflict. Except as to the amendments heretofore mentioned, all Chapters and Sections of the Municipal Code of the Village of Western Springs shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6: Severability and Validity. Each section, paragraph, clause and provision of this Ordinance is separable, and if any portion of this Ordinance is held unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance, nor any part thereof, other than that part affected by such decision.

SECTION 7: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption, approval and publication as provided by State law.

PASSED by a roll call vote of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Western Springs, Cook County, Illinois, at a Regular Meeting thereof, held on the 15th day of June, 2026, and approved by me as Village President, and attested by the Village Clerk, on the same day.

Heidi Rudolph, Village President

Edward Tymick, Village Clerk

This Ordinance was published by me in pamphlet form on the 15th day of June, 2026.

Edward Tymick, Village Clerk

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT
TO THE PROVISIONS OF WESTERN SPRINGS ORDINANCE NO. 26-____
AND AGREEMENT TO COMPLY WITH AND FULFILL
THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH ABOVE IN THIS ORDINANCE**

We, Aron Dorner and Alex Corral have read the conditions set forth in the above-referenced Ordinance, including those contained in Section 4, and agree to be bound by the same.

The Clever Drinker LLC (Applicant/Owner)

By: _____
Aron Dorner, Managing Member

By: _____
Notary Public

Date: _____

Date: _____

Commission Expires: _____

By: _____
Alex Corral, Member

By: _____
Notary Public

Date: _____

Date: _____

Commission Expires: _____

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF COOK)

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, Edward Tymick, Clerk of the Village of Western Springs, in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, certify that the attached document is a true and correct copy of that certain Ordinance now on file in my office, entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 25-_____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4 (LIQUOR CONTROL) OF THE WESTERN SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF A CLASS "O" (CRAFT BEER, WINE AND SPIRITS ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE; ON-SITE CONSUMPTION AND PACKAGED SALES) LIQUOR LICENSE WHICH CAN BE ISSUED IN THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE RETAIL SALE OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR IN A SPECIALTY RETAIL STORE FOR AND ONSITE CONSUMPTION AND PACKAGED WITHIN THE LICENSED PREMISES LOCATED AT 4354 JOHNSON AVENUE, WESTERN SPRINGS, ILLINOIS (APPLICANT: The Clever Drinker LLC)

which Ordinance was passed by a roll call vote of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Western Springs at a Regular Meeting on the 15th day of June, 2026, at which meeting a quorum was present, and approved by the President of the Village of Western Springs on the 15th day of June, 2026.

I further certify that the vote on the question of the passage of said Ordinance by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Western Springs was taken by Ayes and Nays and recorded in the minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Western Springs, and that the result of said vote was as follows, to-wit:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

I do further certify that the original Ordinance, of which the foregoing is a true copy, is entrusted to my care for safekeeping, and that I am the lawful keeper of the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Village of Western Springs, this 15th day of June, 2026.

Edward Tymick, Village Clerk

[SEAL]