

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF INDIANA BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011, AT 6:30 PM, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

PRESENT: President Simmons, Presiding; D. Peffer, Recording; Council Members Bricklemyer, Geesey, Hartman, Jones, Kravetsky, Petrosky, Shively, Thompson and Thorell; Mayor Hood; Chief Sutton; Solicitor Kablack; Assistant Treasurer Sipos; Public Works Director Fairman; Code & Zoning Director Kirk; Fire Chief Kelly; Randy Wells, Indiana Gazette; Maria Miller, Renda Broadcasting; Mark Kozar, Esquire and representatives of Giant Eagle; and approximately fifteen (15) visitors.

President Simmons called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to hear testimony in regard to the transfer of a liquor license to Giant Eagle.

Mark Kozar, Esquire, representing Giant Eagle, began his presentation by explaining that the new Liquor Control Law allows the transfer of a liquor license from another municipality in Indiana County to Indiana Borough. Kozar was requesting approval for the transfer of a full restaurant liquor license for the new Giant Eagle Express market to be built along South Seventh Street, at the site of the former Giant Eagle that closed in November. The Giant Eagle Express market will be a smaller version of the chain's grocery stores and will feature prepared foods to eat as meals in the market's café or to take out. The liquor license will allow the market to sell beer for consumption on the premises or as takeout purchases. Kozar stated this isn't going to be a bar and explained that the café will have a self-imposed two beer limit for consumption on the premises and must include a food purchase as well. All employees will receive extensive training on responsible alcohol service, and the cash register will ensure all customers are legally old enough to purchase beer by verifying dates of birth on drivers' licenses. The new market will employ about 85 people, and the closed Giant Eagle building will be demolished as soon as they have obtained the necessary permits.

During discussion, Councilman Petrosky asked if the closing of South 7th Street was off the board now, and the response was yes. Mayor Hood asked if we could put meters in front of the store. Code Director Kirk stated that is our space, so we could put meters there if we wanted to. Public Works Director Fairman asked about the employee parking spaces that we had previously given them along the side of the building. Kirk stated those spaces hadn't been discussed, but he didn't think they would care or need them. The employee parking spaces can be accommodated on-site. When asked if this development would have to comply with the new TND regulations, Kirk replied no; however, they have tried to incorporate a lot of the things that the municipality would like to see such as green space landscaping and decorative lighting. Councilman Thorell asked if the dead electronic sign on the triangular corner across the street would be coming down, and the answer was yes.

Dana Henry, President of the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, urged Council to approve the transfer. Henry stated Giant Eagle has long been a chamber member, and the new market will not only create jobs but will fill a void that has existed for residents since the previous market closed last fall.

Hearing no further testimony, Pres. Simmons declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:45 PM.