

**BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

February 5, 2025

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Council President James Speth opened the hearing at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone to the hearing and noted there will be no hurtful or harmful speech allowed. Mr. Speth noted the meeting would be recorded by the newspaper reporter in attendance.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present at the meeting were Council members Alan Heller, James Speth, Bogan Goughler, Larry Baughman, Howard Barger, and Mayor Matthew Carlson. Also present were Attorneys Brian Spaid and Alex Spaid.

III. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA

IV. REVIEW PROPOSED OPERATIONS OF A LIQUOR LICENSE BY GIANT EAGLE AT THE 541 ALLEGHENY BLVD. LOCATION

V. COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

- A. Mayor Carlson read a statement from Chief Wenner in regards to the liquor license request by Giant Eagle.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION *(limited to 3 minutes each)*

- A. Ellen Freeman, Esq. Flaherty – O'Hara Law Offices, is the attorney representing Giant Eagle. She stated Giant Eagle would be selling mainly beer, but also wine and ready – to – drink cocktails. She presented Council with a floor plan with the area where they plan to install the coolers and seating. The alcoholic drinks would be limited to this one area in the store and remodeling would be done primarily at night. Ms. Freeman said Giant Eagle will operate under the same limitations and guidelines as Sheetz currently does in regards to liquor sales. She also said that Giant Eagle has a standard that they conduct business under and will continue to do so. The employees will undergo training as well. Mr. Baughman asked if they are going to be stand – up coolers. She said that is correct and there will not be a "Beer Cave" as some retailers have now. There will also be seating for 30 people in the new designated area, which is a liquor code requirement. Giant Eagle is being very mindful with how much space will be taken up and does not want to interfere with grocery customers. Mr. Spaid questioned if Ms. Freeman knew which business previously owned the requested liquor license; he stated he knew it was a business in Oil City. Ms. Freeman said it belonged to the Pizza Hut in Oil City. Mr. Baughman asked if there will be a manager designated to that area. Ms. Freeman said there will be a manager assigned to that area only and it will be a full – time job. And there will be two (2) designated registers, which will be clearly marked that will be used for the purchasing of any alcohol. Those cashiers will be required to take specialized training as well. Mr. Heller questioned if there will be different hours set up or if they will remain regular store hours. Ms. Freeman said liquor sales will operate during regular store hours and will only be sold between the hours of 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Sunday hours will not be different.
- B. John McClelland requested to look at the floor plans.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman being duly seconded by Alan Heller to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Joseph M. Sporer, Borough Manager

James Speth, Council President