

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SERVICES
HELD FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026
1625 S 900 W, SALT LAKE CITY**

[Commissioners may participate virtually]

Commissioner's Present:

Chair Stephen Handy
Christopher Conabee
Jacquelyn Orton
Tara Thue
Juliette Tennert
Falyn Owens

Staff Present:

Executive Director Ericka Evans
Managing Director of Operations
Jeremy Sommerlath
Deputy Director of Finance and
Administration Todd Darrington
Deputy Director, Legal & Regulatory
Affairs Brian Swan

Commissioner's Absent:

Vice Chair Jennifer Tarazon

Also Present:

Assistant Attorney General Samuel
McHenry

Note: A copy of the related material and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.abs.utah.gov

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER – Stephen Handy, Chair

Chair Handy called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. He emphasized seamless market transitions to support residents and tourists, then introduced the commissioners and staff members assisting with the commission.

2. TYPE 2 AND 3 PACKAGE AGENCY APPLICATIONS: (Jessica Atencio) [action item]

Jessica Atencio, package agency program manager, presented the Type 2 and Type 3 package agency applications for Richfield, Panguitch, and Payson market areas.

a. Richfield Market Area Applicants

- (1) Lin's Supermarket, Richfield (Type 2)
- (2) Swell Liquor, Richfield (Type 3)

The commission virtually interviewed 2 applicants for a package agency contract in the Richfield market area.

Lin's Supermarket, Darrin Peirce and Justin Atwater presented an overview of the retail operations, reviewing the floor plan, expected visitor count, and projected alcohol sales.

Swell Liquor, Ryan Ware presented the operations and answered commissioners' questions regarding his commute, staffing, and community investment.

Deputy Director of Finance and Administration Todd Darrington clarified that funding limitations should be considered before approving both applicants for the market area.

b. Panguitch Market Area Applicants

- (1) Boots & Booze Liquor, Panguitch (*Type 3*)
- (2) AKO Spirits, Panguitch (*Type 3*)

The commission virtually interviewed 2 applicants for a Type 3 package agency contract in the Panguitch market area.

Boots & Booze Liquor, Sydney and Mathew Lamas presented an overview of their retail operations. They answered commissioner's questions about staffing, sales projections, and increasing profit from selling additional items.

AKO Spirits, Amy Dodds and Kevin Overson presented their business plan and a letter of local support. They answered commissioners' questions regarding their staffing model, and long-term financial stability.

c. Payson Market Area Applicant

- (1) Ridley's Family Markets, Payson (*Type 3*)

The commission virtually interviewed the applicant, Ridley's Family Market, for a Type 3 package agency contract in the Payson market area.

Ridley's Family Market, Mark Ridley, presented his retail and liquor experience. He explained they own the Payson building and have staff in place.

MOTION: Commissioner Tennert moved to approve the applicant Ridley's Family Markets in the Payson market area and directing the department to enter into a Type 3 package agency contract. Commissioner Thue seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a roll call vote. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Chair Handy
Commissioner Orton
Commissioner Conabee
Commissioner Thue
Commissioner Owens
Commissioner Tennert

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Vice Chair Tarazon

3. CLOSED PORTION OF MEETING [*action item*]

- a. Motion to close the meeting pursuant to Utah Code Subsection 52-4-205(1)(a), if needed

- b. Commission discussion

MOTION: Commissioner Thue made a motion to close the meeting pursuant to Utah Code Subsection 52-4-205(1)(a). Commissioner Conabee seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Chair Handy
Commissioner Orton
Commissioner Conabee
Commissioner Thue
Commissioner Tennert
Commissioner Owens

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Vice Chair Tarazon

The commission moved into a closed virtual session at 11:55 am.

4. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING [action item]

- a. Commission discussion

MOTION: Commissioner Thue made a motion to end the closed portion of the meeting. Commissioner Conabee seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a roll call vote. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Chair Handy
Commissioner Orton
Commissioner Conabee
Commissioner Thue
Commissioner Tennert
Commissioner Owens

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Vice Chair Tarazon

The commission returned to open the meeting at 12:23 pm.

MOTION: Commissioner Thue moved to approve Lin's Supermarket as a Type 2 package agency in Richfield and directing the department to enter a contract. Commissioner Tennert seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Chair Handy
Commissioner Orton
Commissioner Conabee
Commissioner Thue
Commissioner Tennert
Commissioner Owens

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Vice Chair Tarazon

MOTION: Commissioner Thue moved to approve Boot's & Booze Liquor as a Type 3 package agency in Panguitch and directing the department to enter into a contract. Commissioner Conabee seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Chair Handy
Commissioner Orton
Commissioner Conabee
Commissioner Thue
Commissioner Tennert
Commissioner Owens

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Vice Chair Tarazon

5. PUBLIC COMMENT FROM COMMISSIONERS AND PUBLIC.

Commissioner Conabee thanked the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services staff for their hard work with a quick turnaround process.

6. ADJOURN.

MOTION: Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the April 17, 2026 Special Commission Meeting. Commissioner Thue seconded the motion. Chair Handy called for a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Chair Handy
Commissioner Orton
Commissioner Conabee
Commissioner Thue
Commissioner Tennert
Commissioner Owens

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Vice Chair Tarazon

The commission adjourned the meeting at 12:37 pm.