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*The grilled cheese restaurant Melt, slated to open at 2563 Banks Street, has been approved to serve alcohol.*

Melt, a grilled cheese restaurant located at 2549 Banks St. was granted approval for alcoholic beverage sales at the City Council meeting last week, as was 1000 Figs, located at 3141 Ponce de Leon Street.

Geocor, LLC owns the two-story building where the 2,300 square foot restaurant Melt occupies the first floor. The second floor is office space and residential apartments.

Last month the restaurant was granted approval by the City Planning Commission.

According to the recommendation submitted by city planners, the alcoholic beverage sales can be negative to the area only if the restaurant is not managed correctly.

“Alcoholic beverage sales can generate a negative impact if the business is not managed in a way to limit undesirable patron behavior,” the report read. “If properly managed the addition of alcoholic beverage sales with meals at a standard restaurant should not be problematic for the neighborhood.”

Planners say traffic in the area would increase, but off-street parking is not required for the restaurant.

Nine provisos were included in the staff recommendation “to minimize any potential negative impacts of the addition of alcoholic beverages.” They included the sale of alcohol only in combination with meals, operation hours of 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Sunday and no live music.

“I fully support it,” Councilwoman Stacy Head said.



*1000 Figs, located at 3143 Ponce de Leon Street in Mid-City, got the go-ahead Tuesday to serve alcohol to patrons (Google Maps).*

City Council also approved the request for alcoholic beverage sales at 1000 Figs.

The 960-square-foot restaurant is right off the corner of Esplanade Avenue and serves Middle Eastern cuisine. The restaurant is one of three businesses on the first floor of the two-story building, with apartments located on the second. One of the businesses is Swirl wine shop.

According to the City Planning Commission staff recommendation, the request is an amendment to the existing ordinance.

“Since there is a retail wine shop in the building with a conditional use ordinance this request would be approved as an amendment to that ordinance which covers the entirety of the property,” the report read, adding that the sale of alcoholic beverages would “not be expected to be significant.”

Staff included 7 provisos to apply to the restaurant while 13 other provisos apply to the wine shop. Some of the restaurant provisos include no live music, no signs advertising alcohol and operating hours from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, with an extended closing time of midnight Friday through Sunday.

“Faubourg St. John people love it. The neighborhood association is not opposed and are working on a good neighbor agreement,” Councilwoman Susan Guidry said. “It’s already getting a very good reputation as a restaurant.”

The City Council approved both restaurants for alcoholic beverage sales with a unanimous vote of 6-0.