

MINUTES OF A CONTINUED MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COEUR D' ALENE, IDAHO,
HELD AT THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

April 21, 2025

The Mayor and Council of the City of Coeur d' Alene met in a continued session of said Council at the Coeur d' Alene Library Community Room on April 21, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., there being present upon roll call a quorum:

Woody McEvers, Mayor

Dan English)	Members of Council Present
Amy Evans)	
Kiki Miller)	
Dan Gookin)	
Christie Wood)	
Kenny Gabriel)	

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McEvers called the meeting to order.

Council conducted the hearing for the appeal for Anqin Du, Foot Massage located at 1034 N. 3rd Street. A. Revocation of Massage Facility License #63411.

Details of the hearings can be located in the attached Legal Decision.

MOTION: Motion by Wood, seconded by Gookin to affirm the Revocation of Foot Massage; Massage Facility License #63411 held by Anqin Du, Foot Massage.

ROLL CALL: Gookin Aye; English No; Wood Aye; Miller No; Evans Aye; Gabriel Aye.
Motion carried.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Gookin asked about the measures being taken to prevent illegal activities in massage facilities. City Attorney Randy Adams responded that the Police Department is currently reviewing a draft amendment to the Municipal Code concerning these facilities. This draft will be shared with stakeholders for feedback before being presented to the Council for approval.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Gookin, seconded by Gabriel, that there being no other business, this meeting be adjourned. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

ATTEST:


Jo Anne Mateski
Executive Assistant


Woody McEvers, Mayor

**BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO
APPEAL OF ANQIN DU
FROM REVOCATION OF MASSAGE FACILITY LICENSE**

A. Introduction

On the 21st day of April, 2025, the City Council of the City of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, heard the appeal of Anqin Du from the revocation of massage facility license #63411 (Renewal license #63726) by the City. Bob Hamilton presented on behalf of the appellant. Randall Adams, City Attorney, presented on behalf of the City. In addition, both parties presented documentary evidence. No party objected to any of the evidence presented and all evidence was accepted by Council. Following the presentations, Council asked questions of both parties. At the conclusion of the hearing, Council deliberated. Councilmember Wood made a motion to affirm the revocation of the massage facility license. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gookin. Councilmembers Wood, Gookin, Evans, and Gabriel voted in favor of the motion. Councilmembers English and Miller voted against the motion. The motion carried. Council's decision was based on the following findings of fact and conclusions of law.

A City massage facility license is required for any person operating, conducting, carrying on, or maintaining a massage facility or engaging in the business of massage therapy in the City. M.C. § 5.28.020. A violation of any provision of the City's Massage Facility and Spa Code may result in the revocation of a City massage facility license. M.C. § 5.28.100(B)(2). In addition, a license may be revoked if the owner, operator, or any employee of the facility has been guilty of "any misconduct or improper, fraudulent, or wrongful behavior relating to the giving of massages or baths or to the management of massage facilities or spas or to the fitness of such person to engage in such business, or of any act or default which is discreditable to such business or which is lewd or dissolute." M.C. § 5.28.100(B)(2) and 5.28.100(C). The City may also revoke a massage facility license if it "is necessary to protect the public safety, morals or welfare or the operation of such business would be detrimental thereto or in violation of any federal, state or local law." M.C. § 5.28.100(D).

Municipal Code § 5.28.120 provides:

Any applicant who has duly made application for a license under the provisions of this chapter and has been denied such license, or any person holding a license which is revoked or suspended under the provisions of this chapter, may file a petition with the city clerk demanding a hearing before the city council for the purpose of contesting such denial, revocation or suspension, provided that such petition must be filed within ten (10) days following receipt of notification of such denial, revocation or suspension. * * * **All credible evidence bearing on the questions of whether such denial, suspension or revocation is proper under the provisions of this chapter may be received at that hearing.** If the city council shall determine upon such hearing that such denial, suspension or revocation is not proper under the provisions of this chapter, they shall so notify the city clerk, who shall cause the license to be issued or reinstated forthwith. If the city council determines upon

such hearing that such license should be denied, suspended or revoked under the provisions of this chapter, they shall issue such order in writing. An appeal from such order may be made in the district court of Kootenai County in the manner provided under title 63, chapter 52 of the laws of the state of Idaho. [Emphasis added.]

The appellant timely appealed the revocation of her license. The burden is on the appellant to persuade Council by a preponderance of the evidence that the decision to revoke her license was in error.

B. Findings of Fact

Council finds that the following facts have been established on a more probable than not basis.

1. Anqin Du was issued massage facility license #63411 for a business called “Foot Massage” on July 15, 2024. The license was valid through December 31, 2024. The facility was located at 1034 N. 3rd Street, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. City Exhibit 2.
2. On November 4, 2024, Ms. Du applied for a renewal of her massage facility license. The renewal, #63726, was granted. The renewed license was valid through December 31, 2025. City Exhibit 3.
3. On February 18, 2025, a Notice of Revocation of Massage Facility license was delivered to Ms. Du. City Exhibit 5.
4. The Notice of Revocation stated: “the Avista Utility account for this business is under the name of Yan Liu, who had a City Massage Facility License that was revoked on February 25, 2022, and is not eligible to be involved in the management of the facility. Additionally, Little Lock International Enterprise LLC lists Yan Liu as Manager with a principal address of 1034 3rd Street, Unit A, Coeur d’Alene address. Evidence of her association with or involvement in the operation of the facility as outlined in the City Code is a basis for revocation under 5.28.100. Moreover, Municipal Code section 5.28.030(D) requires the names of all persons who will act as proprietor, manager, or person in charge of such business or proposed business and you failed to list Yan Liu’s name on your application. Rather, you specifically stated that she would not be involved in the business and provided documentation that the business was owned by you as a sole proprietor. This is an additional basis for revocation under 5.28.100.” City Exhibit 5.
5. The Coeur d’Alene Police Department, together with other agencies, conducted an investigation into illegal activity at several massage facilities in Coeur d’Alene and Post Falls. Part of that investigation, detailed in Coeur d’Alene Police Department Report for Incident 24C32969, linked Yan Liu and her brother, Wei Liu, to massage facilities at 408 E. Montana Avenue and 4055 N. Government Way, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, and 2600 E. Seltice Way, Post Falls, Idaho. City Exhibit 1.

6. Several individuals who visited the listed massage facilities admitted to Police that they paid for sexual services at each of the facilities, in violation of State law. Police determined that, based on all of the circumstances, Yan Liu and Wei Liu had to be aware that prostitution was occurring at each of these institutions and that they were profiting therefrom. City Exhibit 1.
7. Police determined, through tracking Wei Liu's personal vehicle authorized by a warrant issued by a magistrate judge, that Wei Liu was utilizing a house at 3964 S. Clinton Road, Spokane Valley, Washington, as his residence or base of operations. Daily trips started at that residence and involved visits to each of the listed facilities, and to financial institutions. City Exhibit 1.
8. Spokane County records demonstrate that Wei Liu is a taxpayer for 3964 S. Clinton Road, Spokane Valley, Washington. City Exhibit 9.
9. On her original application for a massage facility license, Ms. Du listed 3964 S. Clinton Road, Spokane Valley, Washington, as both the facility's mailing address and her home address. City Exhibit 2.
10. On her application for the renewal of her massage facility license, Ms. Du listed 3964 S. Clinton Road, Spokane Valley, Washington, as her home address. City Exhibit 3.
11. Although Ms. Du presented evidence purportedly showing that Yan Liu was not involved in "Foot Massage," a business she had purchased from Yan Liu and which she operated in the same premises in which Yan Liu had operated a massage facility, the association between Ms. Du, Yan Liu, and Wei Liu and 3964 S. Clinton Road, Spokane Valley, was un rebutted.

C. Conclusions of Law

1. There is substantial evidence, gathered by the Coeur d'Alene Police Department, that sexual acts for pay (prostitution) have been offered and given to customers at massage parlors located at 408 E. Montana Ave., 4055 N. Government Way, and 2600 E. Seltice Way in August and September 2024.
2. There is substantial evidence linking Yan Liu and Wei Liu to each of those massage parlors, which evidence has led police to conclude that they are involved in those businesses, have knowledge of prostitution occurring at those businesses, and profit from that illegal enterprise.
3. There is substantial evidence showing that Yan and Wei Liu have a base of operations at a home located at 3964 S. Clinton Road, Spokane Valley, Washington, and are listed as persons responsible for taxes on that residence in Spokane County records.

4. The owner of the massage facility at issue here, Anqin Du, identified her home address, as well as the mailing address of her facility, as 3964 S. Clinton Road, Spokane Valley, Washington.
5. Anqin Du links to Yan Liu and Wei Liu demonstrate her connection to a criminal enterprise involving several massage facilities engaged in prostitution.
6. Municipal Code § 5.28.100(B) provides that a massage facility license is properly revoked if any person owning an interest in the massage business has engaged in any improper or wrongful behavior relating to the person's fitness to engage in such business, or if the person is not of good moral character, or if revocation is necessary to protect the public safety, morals or welfare.
7. The evidence establishes, by at least a preponderance of the evidence, that Anqin Du is a person who owns an interest in the massage business known as Foot Massage at 1034 N. 3rd Street, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and that she has engaged in any improper or wrongful behavior relating to her fitness to engage in such business, and that she is not of good moral character, and that revocation is necessary to protect the public safety, morals or welfare, based on her close association with or connection to individuals who previously had their massage facility licenses denied or revoked because of acts of prostitution in their facilities, and who continue to be involved with facilities involving criminal activity.

D. Decision

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law, the City Council determines that the revocation of Anqin Du's massage facility license was appropriate. The revocation is affirmed.

DATED this 24th day of April, 2025.

CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

By Woody McEvers
Woody McEvers, Mayor

ATTEST:

Renata McLeod
Renata McLeod, City Clerk