

Minutes of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen
City of Dyersburg
July 16, 2007

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in regular session on Monday, July 16, 2007 in the municipal courtroom at 7 p.m.

Mayor John Holden presided with all Aldermen present.

The meeting opened with the “Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag” and prayer by Pastor Lynn King of Hillcrest Baptist Church.

Minutes of the meetings of July 2 and July 5, 2007 were approved on a motion by Aldermen Dudley and Williams.

Public Hearing – Amend Beer Ordinance

The Board held a public hearing to consider amending the “Beer Ordinance” to allow a special events permit in the downtown area and a minimum distance requirement waiver for restaurants adjacent to the courthouse square.

The hearing was attended by 79 citizens who filled out the sign in sheet.

Downtown Development Association (Main Street Dyersburg) Director Steve Guttery stressed the positive effects of passing the ordinance amendment. He stated that it would attract investment, increase property values, increase sales tax, stimulate evening and weekend activity downtown and be a plus in industrial recruitment.

Associate City Attorney Hal Boyd addressed the legal parameters and the safeguards built into the proposed amendment.

Mr. James Earl Johnson spoke on behalf of members of East Dyersburg United Methodist Church. He stated that beer does not foster a family friendly atmosphere at events. He urged the Board to vote “no” on the amendment.

Mr. Rick Crawford, an Elder at West Dyersburg Church of Christ spoke on behalf of the silent majority. He urged a “no” vote to do the best thing for the community.

Pastor Jim Wolfgang of East Dyersburg United Methodist Church described his experiences with alcohol as a 14 year veteran of law enforcement. He stated that beer use at special events has negative impacts with costs that outweigh benefits.

Brother Jim Chamblee of West Dyersburg Church of Christ stated that for every dollar gained by beer sales the negative consequences would be ten dollars.

Mr. Mark Johnston expressed concerns as a downtown property owner. He stressed the need to preserve public health, safety, and morals.

Brother Nathan Lewis, Youth Minister for West Dyersburg spoke on behalf of young people and the need to maintain a wholesome atmosphere at events.

City Recorder Gleya Twilla read Section 8-211 the “Requirements for Limited Permit” per the proposed amendment.

Aldermen Dudley, Kirk, Moody, Norman, Walker and Williams asked questions of the various speakers.

Alderman Norman asked for a roll call vote on a motion to reject the amendment to the “Beer Ordinance”.

The proposed amendment to the “Beer Ordinance” was rejected on a motion by Aldermen Williams and Moody. On a roll call vote Aldermen Williams, Dudley, Chaney, Walker, Moody and Mayor Holden voted to reject the amendment. Aldermen Kirk, Norman, and McCright voted against the motion.

Miscellaneous

Alderman Walker called for all businesses to participate in the Tennessee Drug-free Workforce Program.

Alderman Chaney commended everyone for attending and urged greater citizen participation.

Alderman Dudley thanked everyone for their input.

Alderman Williams reminded everyone about the August 18, 2007 City land sale.

Alderman Kirk urged everyone to expect CableOne to provide improved channel reception.

Mayor Holden announced recreation and airport committee meetings. He thanked the audience for speaking up.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

John Holden, Mayor

Gleyn T. Twilla, City Recorder