

Alcohol Advisory Board
Council Chambers at City Hall
November 14, 2016
4:00pm

Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Review of Minutes from Monday, September 12, 2016
3. Adoption of Minutes
4. Discussion of Pricing section of the Ordinance (Happy Hour)
5. "Catered Events" proposal
6. Questions and Comments from the Community
7. Announce Next Meeting- Monday, December 12 at 4:00pm
8. Adjourn

Alcohol Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2016

The second meeting of the Alcohol Advisory Board was held on September 12, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Patrice Jackson, Woody Pumphry, Jim Thibodeau, Shubert Lane, Laura Wheaton, and Matt Hube. Also present were City Attorney Alvin Leaphart and City Clerk Sue Starling.

The minutes from the August 8, 2016 meeting were presented. Shubert Lane made a motion to adopt the minutes. Jim Thibodeau seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

Greg Parker of Parker Convenience stores presented a proposal that drive-thru alcohol sales be allowed in the city. Parker's has a new location within the city that has a drive-thru window. Mr. Parker pointed out that Parker's has several other locations in other places that have the ability to sell alcohol utilizing drive-thru windows. Questions were posed by the members and discussion followed. A motion was made by Matt Hube to amend the ordinance to allow for drive-thru alcohol sales subject to existing rules and regulations. The motion was seconded by Jim Thibodeau. The motion passed with a 4-2 vote. Members Hube, Thibodeau, Pumphrey and Lane voted for the motion. Members Jackson and Wheaton voted against.

Bulloch County Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Thompson who serves as the T.I.P.S. instructor gave a presentation on the T.I.P.S. program. Deputy Thompson presented the board with information on the content of the program and the testing procedures. He also highlighted some differences between the T.I.P.S. program and the T.I.R.V. program. Deputy Thompson stressed that the trainers for the T.I.P.S. program are local and have a vested interest in keeping the community safe. There was a short question and answer session from the members.

Mr. William Lord from The Training Institute for Responsible Vendors, Inc. (T.I.R.V.) presented information on the server training program his company offers. Mr. Lord had appeared before the board previously to request that his company be allowed to offer training in Statesboro that will satisfy the alcohol ordinance's requirement that all employees of businesses who are licensed to sell alcohol complete a Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) alcohol course, or other similar training approved by Mayor and City Council within thirty (30) days of employment. (Section 6-10(a)). A motion was made by Shubert Lane not to recommend approval of the T.I.R.V. program and to keep the T.I.P.S. program as the sole training program for the City of Statesboro. The motion was seconded by Woody Pumphrey. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1. All members voted for the motion except Laura Wheaton who voted against.

It was decided that the ServSafe alcohol training program would be subject to the same motion and vote made above regarding the T.I.R.V. training program.

Members Pumphrey and Jackson then raised concerns about having on-line training versus in-person training. There was discussion by the members who shared concerns over on-line training

not being as effective as in-person training. It was decided that this item would be placed on the agenda for next month's meeting.

The proposed change to the catered events portion of the ordinance was discussed next. Darren Van Tassel presented on behalf of the Tormenta Soccer Club to amend the catered events portion of the alcohol ordinance to allow for serving of alcohol at public events like sporting events. Attorney Bob Mikell had appeared at a previous meeting and stated on behalf of the Tormenta Soccer Club that the current catered events portion of the alcohol ordinance only allows an alcohol license holder to serve alcohol at a private event, but does not allow the sale of alcohol at events where the general public is admitted. The proposed change in the ordinance would allow for sales of alcohol at events where the general public is admitted. The proposed change also allows for the City Council to place any limiting restriction on the event which it deems necessary to ensure compliance with and effectuation of the general state law, prevention and control of the sale of alcoholic beverages by unfit persons, and protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Georgia Department of Revenue Agent Ron Huckaby was also present and gave the board an overview of state and local laws regarding catered events and how alcohol is sold at other events like the Augusta boat races and the Savannah Bananas baseball games. Captain James Winskey of the Statesboro Police Department also had comments regarding the issue and suggested that an alcohol license could be issued at a reduced rate since the licensees would only be selling alcohol on a few occasions instead of daily like most establishments. It was pointed out by Agent Huckaby that there would be problems with issuing licenses due to on-site storage requirements. A motion was made by Laura Wheaton to recommend the proposed change along with limiting ticket sales and for the change to only apply to sporting events or business meetings. The motion was not seconded. After additional discussion, Matt Hube made a motion to table the issue with the expectation that board members bring a revised proposed definition of catered events to the next meeting. Shubert Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 5-1 vote. All members voted in favor except for Patrice Jackson who voted against. City Attorney Alvin Leaphart suggested that the members focus on the process and procedures instead of definitions.

The members then took up a discussion of the pricing section of the ordinance (section 6-16). The City Council requested at their previous meeting that the board look at this portion of the ordinance to recommend clarification. The members all agreed that the existing language regarding "happy hours" is very confusing as written and needed to be clarified. Captain James Winskey commented on portions of the existing ordinance and pointed out some possible unintended consequences such as being able to have a "happy day" instead of just a "happy hour". Further discussion was engaged in by the members until Laura Wheaton made a motion to table the discussion until the October meeting to research the issue and then make a recommendation. Shubert Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

During the questions and comments from the community portion of the meeting, Darren Van Tassel commented that the pricing ordinance with regards to "happy hour" is very confusing to him. Member Jim Thibodeau asked if the pricing section of the ordinance applied to on-premises sales or off-premises sales.

The next Alcohol Advisory Board meeting was set for October 10, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.

At 6:50 p.m. Laura Wheaton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shubert Lane seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.