

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
June 11, 2007

PUBLIC HEARING
“ALCOHOL ORDINANCE AMENDMENT”
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia met in a Public Hearing on Monday, June 11, 2007 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE:

Mayor Rowland Eskridge
Councilmember Gary Blount
Councilmember William DeLoughy
Councilmember Larry Johnson
Councilmember Jerry Lockhart
Councilmember L. J. Williams
Councilmember Gull Weaver

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

William Shanahan, City Manager
Gary A. Bacon, City Attorney
Max Tinsley, Planning Director
Roger Weaver, City Planner
Gene Rudy, IT Director
Rindy Howell, Sr. Center Coordinator
Tim Hatch, Police Chief
Robby Horton, Fire Chief (Late)
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director (Late)

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eskridge called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 P.M.

The City Manager stated that the Police Chief is working on a training program to educate alcohol license holders, new applicants and violators serving to minors on responsible alcohol sales and service. If the program is implemented in the City, workshops would be held through the police department for little or no cost to licensees and violators.

ALCOHOL ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

The City Manager read the alcohol ordinance amendment as follows:

Section 10-5(h) of the Code of Ordinance”

h). Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit the licensing of the sale of alcoholic beverages within the C1 Central Business District by:

(1) An eating establishment that sells alcoholic beverages as a part of the meal, licensed and held out to the public as a place where meals are served and where meals are actually and regularly served; provided further, however that no new license shall be issued to such eating establishments which lie or are situated within 100 feet of any church building, school building, educational building, school ground, college campus or public housing.

(2) A new alcoholic beverage license for an eating establishment as defined in Sec. 10-5(h)(1), for on premise consumption may be issued a maximum of one alcoholic beverage license per C1 Central Business District lot. The distance requirements as outlined in Sec. 10-5(d) and Sec. 10-5(e) shall not apply.”

Councilmember Lockhart stated that as the community starts to grow, the City’s present ordinance does not allow two restaurants to serve alcohol side by side. Council member’s discussed the current ordinance for restaurant’s is 150 feet, changing it to 100 feet.

Donna Boyett, Proprietor of The French Quarter commented that many visitors ask for recommendations of restaurants where drinks are served and there are not many that serve a nice dinner.

Jean Peatree, Proprietor of Double Takes Consignment Shoppe stated that visitors would like more restaurant choices that serve a glass of wine with dinner, specifically boaters because they need to stay downtown for lack of transportation.

ADJOURNMENT

There were no further requests to address Council. Therefore, Mayor Eskridge declared the Public Hearing adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk