

PUBLIC HEARINGS

LOUDON CITY COUNCIL

March 16, 2009

Public hearings were held before the Loudon City Council on March 16, 2009 in the Council Meeting Room. Those present for the public hearings were Mayor Bernie R. Swiney, Councilmen Mike Cartwright, Lewis Garner, Eugene Lambert and Lynn Millsaps. Also present were City Manager Lynn Mills, City Attorney Edwin Arnold and City Recorder Stephanie Putkonen. Vicky Newman represented the *News-Herald*. Approximately twenty citizens were present for the first public hearing and approximately thirty were present for the second public hearing.

LIQUOR STORE APPLICATIONS

Mayor Swiney called a public hearing to order at 6:00 P.M. He called for comments or questions regarding applications for liquor stores to be located in the City of Loudon.

There was no response. Mayor Swiney closed the public hearing at 6:01 P.M.

AMENDING TITLE 9, CHAPTER 5, SECTION 502 AND DELETING SECTION 9-503 OF THE CITY OF LOUDON MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO POOL ROOMS

Mayor Swiney called the public hearing to order at 7:15 P.M. He called for comments or questions regarding the ordinance.

Police Chief James Webb stated his concern about the proposed changes making it less restrictive for minors to be allowed to play pool. It would make it harder for the police to determine if minors were supposed to be there. He was especially concerned because the two establishments that had pool tables also had on-premises beer permits. He said he had no problem with changing the hours of operation. His problem was with the inability of the police department to verify if the minors had their parent's approval to be at the establishments if the ordinance is changed.

Councilman Millsaps asked Chief Webb if he had checked the establishments for compliance with the current ordinance.

Chief Webb said he had made sure they were complying with the ordinance. He said there were no problems with either of the two establishments. His concern was about future establishments.

Councilman Millsaps said if the ordinance was changed tonight, it could be changed again in the future if problems arise.

Councilman Cartwright said the current age restriction of eighteen was not appropriate. He said he could support age fifteen or sixteen.

Councilman Garner said times have changed. Now there are game rooms not just pool halls. He said the game rooms provide some after school entertainment. It was safer than being on the streets or for latchkey children going home to an empty house.

Chief Webb stated again that there are no problems now. He expressed his concern about the amount of time it would take to make any changes to the ordinance if there are problems in the future.

Police Sergeant Scott Newman stated that he did not see any benefit to dropping the restrictions. He said if children are there with their parents it's not an issue. It's only an issue if children are there without parents.

Councilman Cartwright said most parents relinquish some control of their teenagers by sixteen or seventeen.

Mayor Swiney said the ordinance could always be changed if it becomes a problem. Game rooms do provide another entertainment outlet for children.

There being no further comments, Mayor Swiney closed the public hearing at 7:30 P.M.

Recorder

Mayor