

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI, SEPTEMBER 22, 2003**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Branson, Missouri, met in the Public Comments session in the Council Chambers of the City Hall on September 22, 2003 at 9:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Lou Schaefer presiding, with Dick Gass, Stan Barker, Beverly Martin, Ron Huff, David Edie, and Jack Purvis present.

Also in attendance were: Administrator Terry Dody, Assistant Administrator Kevin Faught, City Attorney Dan Wichmer, and City Clerk Sandra Williams.

Mayor Schaefer called the Public Comments meeting to order and stated the Board would hear citizens that signed up to speak in the order of the first person signing the sheet, and there were six people signed up to address the Board.

John Logan addressed the Board thanking them for making the changes and indicating that it is good to clear things up. Mr. Logan said he couldn't think of a man in this community that he likes any more than Ron Huff. However they differed philosophically, and he did not agree with the statement made by Alderman Huff in the business meeting tonight. Many people have been irrevocably offended in the past as it is not right to interrupt citizens while they are speaking. We need more open communications within this community, and I hope it will be a new era in communications within this community. As citizens we must speak what we believe, as there is a tremendous amount of upheaval within our community. I hope this is the first step towards healing that, indicated Mr. Logan.

Alderman Huff thanked Mr. Logan for speaking, and indicated he sincerely hopes the new format will help everyone work together more openly. The comments I made tonight regarding the last meetings were on behalf of the entire Board, not just for me. All of the Board members agreed with those statements and asked me to present them tonight. If you disagree with them then you are disagreeing with all of us, indicated Mr. Huff.

Larry Milton, 102 Vixen, addressed the Board indicated that he wanted to reiterate how much he appreciated the change they passed regarding letting the public speak, and would request the Board consider expanding the "staying on the topic" portion and be more lenient.

Ricky Renfro, 108 Fern Street addressed the Board regarding the change in the liquor laws effective September 1, 2003 relative to the hours of operation on Sunday, and also the gambling issue in Rockaway Beach.

Bill Hagler, 555 Valley View Drive, addressed the Board stating he had planned to address the Board but would not because it was plain to see that the Board did not want to hear what anyone has to say, and he would just put his comments in a “Letter to the Editor”.

Lucy Combs, 211 Riverbend Road, addressed the Board requesting the City consider creating an information book similar to what the “League of Women” put out called “Know your County”. If there were any changes to the book they could be noted in the ‘Branson Report’ that is published quarterly. Mrs. Combs also asked if the Board had reviewed the fireworks ordinance? Terry Dody replied that Celebration City was in full compliance and had received all of their permits prior to beginning their commercial fireworks. They do not fall under the individual or residential display of fireworks category. Mrs. Combs asked the Board to reconsider this as she really felt it should be rescinded.

Administrative Dody indicated he was aware of the publication Mrs. Combs was referring to, and felt this was a very good suggestion as the publication was very well done, and he would proceed with looking into developing one.

Bob Warlick, #2 Maple Court, addressed the Board thanking them for continuing the process of government. Tonight we saw good examples of how things can move through the system quickly when necessary. Mr. Warlick indicated everyone was going to see great results from these changes. He also thanked the Board members individually for letting their voice be heard as he heard more from them individually than he had in the past six months.

Alderman Barker thanked Mr. Warlick and indicated that as an individual he was getting tired of getting beat up for doing his job, and it was time for it to stop.

Mayor Schaefer stated there were no additional citizens requesting to speak and entertained a motion to adjourn to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Alderman Huff moved to go into closed Executive Session pursuant to 610.021.2 for real estate and 610.021.3 for personnel. Motion was seconded by Alderman Barker. Voting aye: Gass, Barker, Martin, Huff, Edie, and Purvis. Nays: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Mayor Schaefer entertained a motion to adjourn. Alderman Barker made the motion, seconded by Alderman Purvis. Voting aye: Gass, Barker, Martin, Huff, Edie, and Purvis. Nays: none. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.