

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI, OCTOBER 13, 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 October 13, 2003 at 8:15 p.m. with the following members present:

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Huff 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 four people signed up to address the Board.

John Logan addressed the Board. Mr. Logan had several questions pertaining to the Branson Landing project. Would there be timeshares; liquor; if a driver anchor had been signed, and whether it might be prudent to wait until one is obtained before proceeding with the lease; and would the City guarantee the bonds. Members of the Board or staff replied to the questions. Mr. Logan then made a statement to absolutely employ the City Council, the Aldermen to please save our unique Ozark culture. To please save what God has granted the community, the natural beauty, the wholesomeness of our lakes and mountains, our streams, our trees, our peacefulness, and our native courtesy. Branson has something so unique and precious here, and it is our most major and irreplaceable asset, indicated Mr. Logan.

Chuck Pennel, 353 Quincy Road, Kirbyville addressed the Board. Mr. Pennel stated he had requested the Board consider a similar resolution as the County passed on the liquor issue and as yet had not heard any public response. Mr. Pennell asked again for the Board to consider at least passing a resolution saying they were against the expansion of serving liquor in the theaters, and offered petitions with 800 signatures requesting the Board to establish an ordinance. City Attorney Dan Wichmer explained that Missouri adopted a local control ordinance which allowed cities to regulate certain aspects of alcohol but could not prohibit it. Liquor By the Drink establishments as set by the state are theaters, resorts, and restaurants. The question is why can't we regulate alcohol in theaters, and the answer is if you are going to regulate theaters you must regulate restaurants, resorts and everything else that has a Liquor By the Drink License. Therefore you cannot regulate alcohol in theaters, because you will be treating them differently, stated Mr. Wichmer.

Ricky Renfro, 108 Fern Street, Branson, addressed the Board. Mr. Renfro indicated he was also going to speak about liquor tonight, and it looked like they would have to go to the state for more local control. Mr. Renfro then addressed the issue of whether drugs were in our schools. Members of the Board requested that Mr. Renfro discuss this matter with the School Board, the Branson Police Department, and the Taney County Sheriff.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Alderman Purvis moved to go into closed Executive Session pursuant to Section 610.021.1 RSMo for litigation, 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 Pro Tem Huff 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 9:00 p.m.