

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI, DECEMBER 8, 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 December 8, 2003 at 9:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor 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 two people signed up to address the Board.

Chuck Pennell, Kirbyville was the first speaker to address the Board. Mr. Pennell said that as he listened tonight he was excited about what is happening in our community. A lot of good things such as Don Gabriel's presentation, the natural gas, and etc. As he listened he felt his issue was very little compared to the potential projects that was heard tonight. Mr. Pennell stated that before he began talking about his subject he wanted to first comment about the opting out issue. The southwest seven County Region of Commissioners have voted to opt out in unison. So the counties in this area, southwest Missouri are opting out. How are the businesses in these counties going to feel about Branson taking advantage of this, and is the short gain worth it in the long run?

Once again, I am here to try to sell you that the serving of liquor in theaters is an important issue. We have something great here in Branson and don't need to reinvent this place. We need to stay in our unique spot. Mr. Pennell said he had spoken to Steve who is the Chief of Enforcement of Liquor Control in Jefferson City, and asked him if there are any movie theaters in the State of Missouri that serves liquor. The reply was that he did not know of any movie theaters that served liquor in the State of Missouri. Mr. Pennell asked the Board if they really wanted to give Branson the reputation of being unique in Missouri by being the only city that serves liquor at movie theaters. "I have asked you so many times to state your case on where you stand. If you won't pass a resolution against it how about passing one for it. You passed one on the theaters as far as keeping laws, pass one saying let's serve liquor. I don't want you to, but take a stand. Tell the people where you are. I believe it is important that they know. I have asked you; I have tried to be polite, and I realize it is a controversial issue, but again tonight, I asked you, please tell the community yes. It may seem like a little thing to you, but 800 folks signed a petition; I am not alone; I am just the only one on the subject tonight, stated Mr. Pennell.

The last speaker to address the Board was John Logan, Branson. **JOHN LOGAN**  
Mr. Logan stated he wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Merry Christmas. We have our agreements, and our disagreements but there is not a one of you, that I don't have a lot of respect for. I don't always agree with you, as we have found out over the last year, but you are all good people, even when I draw pictures of Dan with his ears too big, but I like him. Branson, Missouri is really unique. We don't have to really care what any other community in the United States of America does because Branson is unique. I have been critical of the Chamber, but I am thrilled that the money is staying here. But at the same time, I heard a great dissertation from the Chamber that said we need to spend a whole lot of money to be branded. I would like to submit to you that we are already branded. We are branded as something that other people in this United States cannot have. We are a wholesome, family vacation area. Our forefathers have worked to keep this a wholesome community, and 800 people have signed that they don't want an expansion of alcohol in our theaters. I ask you to tell us "no" we don't want any more expansion of liquor in theaters, or say "yes" we want it, don't be lukewarm. Give us leadership, say you want liquor in the theaters or say you don't want liquor in the theaters, as it certainly is not unconstitutional to pass a resolution. I am not asking you to pass a law. I just want you to say you want it or don't want it. The county said they didn't want it. Please say "yes" or "no", don't keep us on the fence post. Inaction is the same as acquiescence to it.

Mr. Logan also asked the Board to write letters thanking the companies that did the marketing presentations as there was a lot of effort, expense, and time put into them and the companies did a great job. Mr. Logan then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Schaefer stated, that concluded the Public Comments section and entertained a motion to adjourn to Executive Session.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Alderman Huff 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. The motion was seconded by Alderman Purvis. Voting aye: Gass, Barker, Martin, Huff, Edie, and Purvis. Nays: none. Motion carried.

#### **ADJOURN:**

Mayor Schaefer entertained a motion to adjourn. Alderman Huff made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Martin. Voting aye: Gass, Barker, Martin, Huff, Edie, and Purvis. Nays: none. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.