

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF ALDERMEN, CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI,
JANUARY 28, 2005**

The City of Branson held a Special Meeting on Friday, January 28, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at Branson City Hall to have a public discussion regarding public solicitations, the distribution of handbills; and to hear a presentation by the Tourism Enhancement Tax Board.

Present were: Mayor Louis Schaefer presiding, and Aldermen Dick Gass, Stan Barker, Beverly Martin, Dave Edie, and Jack Purvis. Absent was Ron Huff. Also present were: City Administrator Terry Dody, City Attorney Daniel Wichmer, City Clerk Sandra Williams, Assistant City Administrator Frank Schoneboom, and Planning and Development Director Don Stephens.

Mayor Schaefer opened the special meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Schaefer thanked everyone for attending and stated the reason for this Special Council Meeting was to discuss amending the ordinance regarding public solicitations and the distribution of handbills; and a presentation by the tourism Enhancement Tax Board. He then turned the floor over to Don Stephens.

Mr. Stephens said that in order to bring everyone up-to-date as from the last work session he would like to review the differences between the three separate issues peddler, solicitor, and handbills in order to clarify these items. He reviewed what a peddler was, a solicitor, the differences between those two, and then reviewed the third portion being considered which was handbills. Because the definition for peddler/solicitor are currently combined there is some confusion when trying to determine whether an individual needs a license, whether they are a peddler, or a solicitor. In an effort to clarify the proposed ordinance, it defines a peddler as it was previously without any change to that definition. The new portion is a complete new section for solicitation on public property. This proposed ordinance does not deal with solicitation on private property. Mr. Stephens concluded his presentation by reviewing the proposed ordinance, explaining the suggested changes and the reasons for them before.

Mayor Schaefer then opened the floor for questions and discussion by the Board and the audience.

John Logan, 2277 Lakeshore Drive, Branson addressed the Board asking if it would be allowed for a newspaper boy to peddle newspapers on a street? Mr. Stephens replied that if they are selling newspapers and don't have a business in town, they would need a peddler's license. If they worked for a business in town, they would not be a peddler, so it would be allowed. Mr. Logan then asked if that were the newspaper boy's job week in and week out would it be allowed? Mr. Stephen replied yes, that is a job, and they have a regular licensed business. They

would not be a peddler. They are selling something, so that is part of the wares they have to sell, and that would be allowed.

Discussion was then held regarding non-for-profit groups such as the Salvation Army and the Muscular Dystrophy; political campaign handbills; events and activities sponsored by the Downtown Association; banners; and the effect on Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

After no further discussion, Mayor Schaefer concluded the discussion regarding solicitation, and asked the Clerk for the next item.

City Clerk Williams informed the Board the next item was a Presentation by the Tourism Enhancement Tax Board.

Mayor Schaefer opened the floor for the presentation.

Kent Turner of the Tax Board addressed the Board informing them the Tax Board had had three meetings in the last eight days in an attempt to make some revisions in the enabling legislation pertaining to the Tourism Enhancement Tax legislation. Mr. Turner said they find that many people in the community did not have any idea what this tax is about nor who would have to pay the tax, and who wouldn't. This tax will triple the amount of money available for marketing this area. He indicated they were trying to get a few million more people to come to Branson and spend their money, which pays off bond issues, and gives the citizens the quality of life they desire. This is a district tax and the district includes the City of Branson, Silver Dollar City, Indian Point Village, and a small area south of Table Rock Lake Dam, including the Branson Belle and State Park Marina. Mr. Turner then discussed the different areas of the legislation they were trying to improve which were concerns when this was last voted on by the residents. Some of the proposed amendments to the legislation were increasing the size of the Enhancement Board from five members to seven members, all to be appointed by elected officials of incorporated areas with the City of Branson getting three members, Indian Point Village getting two, and Taney County getting two members. Additional information was presented on the recommended change regarding the replacement of a member who has resigned or moved, and the change that was being considered regarding the bidding process to obtain the marketing agency. Also discussed was the breakdown of how the funds received would be utilized. Mr. Turner concluded his presentation by saying he believed there was an opportunity in the State Capitol to get an amendment passed this spring which would then allow the Enhancement Board to put the issue on the ballot at the earliest in November, 2005, but realistically it will probably be February or April, 2006.

At this time Mayor Schaefer opened the floor for questions, comments and discussion by members of the Board and the audience.

Those members of the audience addressing the Board with questions or comments were: John Logan, 2277 Lakeshore Drive, Branson, Missouri, Gary

Groman, 230 River Point Rd, Hollister, Missouri, Gary Ambler, Gayle Myer, 317 River Bluff, Branson, Missouri, Ross Summers, Chamber of Commerce, and Tammy Johnson, Radisson Hotel.

After considerable discussion and answering questions from the Board and audience, Mr. Turner indicated the intent of this presentation was given before the Board in an effort to determine the Board's position regarding this legislation.

Administrator Dody informed the Board that one of the things the Tourism Enhancement Tax Board is looking for is to understand the Council's position on the particular topic of the 10% being available for cities. The Tax Board is interested in where the governing body stands on this issue. Alderman Edie stated he was not willing to support anything that is a work in progress and would need more information before making a decision. Alderman Gass indicated he recommended that the 10% remain in the Bill for the recreation facilities. Alderman Barker indicated his support from the beginning has always been in favor of the tax in its original form regarding the 10%. For points of clarification, he said he was totally in support of this with the 10% left in it. Alderwoman Martin concurred with that statement, and Alderman Purvis.

ADJOURN:

Mayor Schaefer then entertained a motion to adjourn. Alderman Barker moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderwoman Martin. Voting aye: Gass, Barker, Martin, Edie, and Purvis. Nays: none. Absent: Huff. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.