

The City of Dyer Beer Board met in regular session on Monday, July 27, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall. Those present were Chairman Walton Thompson; Beer Board Members – Judy Baker, Bitsy Gilliland, Nathan Reed, Jimmy Landrum, Roger Gray, George Fisher, Robert Johnson and Attorney Bill Barron. Member, Cody Childress was absent.

A large crowd being present, Chairman Walton Thompson allowed visitors to speak with two limitations; each speaker must contain their speech to five minutes and the entire visitors portion of the meeting can take no longer than fifty-five minutes due to the scheduled meeting of the Board of Mayor and Alderpersons at seven o'clock. The Chairman then opened the floor to the visitors.

Dewayne Goodgine, pastor of the First Baptist Church, addressed the Board. Mr. Goodgine stated that he understood the difficult financial situation that the City was in but he urged the Board to reconsider the Ordinance allowing the sale of beer in Dyer.

Mark Kirkpatrick, pastor of the 1st Assembly of God, spoke as a representative for his church as well as the Ministerial Alliance. Mr. Kirkpatrick apologized to the Board Members for some of the unpleasant phone calls that they had received. He advised that everyone does not act in a Christian manner. After citing many negative statistics related to the effects of alcohol, Mr. Kirkpatrick asked the Board to reconsider the changes that had been made to the ordinance that allow beer to be sold in Dyer. He further stated that he did not like the fact that beer would be sold on Sunday, the Lord's Day. He further stated that any realized profits from the sale of beer would be offset by the extra policing and controlling alcohol related problems. He asked the Board to table the consideration of the application for a beer permit that was on the agenda and restrict the sale of beer in Dyer.

Beverly Roberts spoke as a victim of what alcohol can do to a family. Ms. Roberts advised that beer will only further lead to a stronger substance. As an ex-wife of an alcoholic, she asked the Board to reconsider the sale of beer.

Nancy Paulhus advised that the income received from beer sales would be offset by the expenses needed to deal with alcohol related problems. She stated that allowing beer in Dyer would be like beer being sold in Mayberry.

Chris Paulhus asked to speak for the kids of Dyer. Mr. Paulhus named the names of two teenagers who had been killed and were not able to graduate last year. He believes that allowing the sale of beer will lead to more black ribbons being placed on chairs at graduation due to the death of teenagers.

Ben Johnson advised that he has lived here for seven years. He believes that allowing beer to be sold will lead to increased crime.

Burt Hooper stated that he believes that allowing beer to be sold will cause crime to increase and any revenues that are realized will be eaten up by expenses.

Charlie Karnes stated that this subject was near to him because his son is an alcoholic. Mr. Karnes stated that his son started drinking at thirteen years of age. Beer led to hard liquor. He believes that Dyer has been a leader in this county by being a dry town. He asked each member to consider the children in Elementary school and Jr. High. He asked them not to have a hand in contributing to children being able to access alcohol. He asked the Board to reconsider because this would not help his alcoholic son.

Jerry Crouse asked the Board to reconsider allowing the sale of beer. He believes that God will bless Dyer for not allowing the sale of beer.

Eston Hurst wanted to apologize for some of the Christians that had called the Board Members and had been rude to them. He advised that they had dishonored the Board and God. Mr. Hurst has lived here for twenty five years and has been impressed by the fact that beer was not sold in Dyer. He stated that God will not bless disobedience. He asked the Board to table this motion and not allow the sale of beer.

Dola Acree spoke as a thirty year citizen of Dyer. She advised that she had raised three children in Dyer. She advised that she appreciates everything that the City does. She is proud of this town. As a retired school teacher, she asked the Board to consider the children who come to school with Alcohol Syndrome. Many of these children end up in the court system. She asked the Board to please reconsider allowing the sale of beer and to allow the Lord to lead your hearts. Mrs. Acree stated that she loves the members of the Board and appreciates everything that they do.

Carolyn Vandegriffe advised that she appreciates the Board and all of the hard work that they do, but she is disappointed. She advised that her son is a drug addict and that allowing the sale of beer will not help him. She feels let down.

Lauren Robinson stated that as a student, she had been around alcohol all of the time and no good had ever come from alcohol. She asked the question, "Where is our faith?" She stated that if God had brought us this far, where is our faith. She believes that the Board should stand against allowing the sale of beer. She stated that God will supply our needs if we don't give in.

Jim Griggs advised that he has lived in Dyer for approximately nine years. One of the things that he liked about the town was that he could walk down the streets and feel safe. He asked the Board to ask God what they should do before they act on this matter.

Scott Jewell stated that he was against the sale of beer. He stated that the way the Board votes will affect the way that citizens look at them in the future. He advised that he lost a best friend to a drunk driver. He asked the Board to reconsider.

Wendy Jewell advised that she has a business in Kenton, where alcohol is sold. She sees people buying beer and driving away. She wonders when someone buying and consuming alcohol will run over the kids near the street. She advised that if the Board will seek the Kingdom and His righteousness, all of these things will be added. God will bless our town.

Dawn Jones spoke as a mother of five children. She stated that she has been proud that her children were not raised around beer. She thanked the Board for allowing her to raise her children without the presence of beer. She asked the Board to allow her to continue to raise her children without the presence of beer.

Tracy Cole asked the Board Members that if they had children or grandchildren to please reconsider allowing beer to be sold. He stated that he has a fear of losing a child to a drunk driver.


Melvin Hall stated that he had raised his children here and he was proud of the fact that Dyer has not sold beer. He stated that his best friend had become an alcoholic. He asked the Board to please reconsider this issue and to pray about this issue.


Chairman, Walton Thompson closed the visitor's section of the meeting. He stated that he appreciated everyone who had come to the meeting and he appreciated everyone that spoke.

Thompson then stated that during the visitor's section, the word "reconsider" had been spoken about ten times and the word "table" had been mentioned twice. Thompson then asked what would be the pleasure of the Board regarding the statements that had been made during the visitor's section.

Attorney Bill Barron explained the legal options of the Board. He advised that the Beer Board can consider a completed application. If the requirements of the application are met, you must grant the permit. He advised that another option would be that the City Board, not the Beer Board, could rescind the beer ordinance. Barron advised that the Beer Board can only issue or decline to issue a license or permit. Once a permit is granted, the action can not be undone. Barron also advised that the Board could vote the conscience of the town if so desired. Barron also stated that the Beer Board could simply adjourn since the application that had been submitted was not a complete application.

Motion made by Nathan Reed seconded by Roger Gray to adjourn. Motion carried with all ayes.


Jason K. Griggs, Assistant Recorder


Walton Thompson, Chairman