

MINUTES OF THE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT DISCUSSION WORKSHOP FOR THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE FLORIDA HELD AT 2775 GARRISON AVENUE, September 5, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

The following were present: Mayor Patterson, Commissioners Ashbrook and Lowry. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, Attorney Clinton McCahill, and Police Chief Matt Herring were also present. Commissioner Thursbay joined the meeting at 6:08 P.M. and Commissioner Buzzett was absent.

The purpose of the Workshop was to provide a discussion on the possibility of an Entertainment District in the downtown area.

Mayor Patterson opened the Workshop with an explanation of what had been requested and stated that he had not been for this. He asked Steve Burke, President of the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce, if he would like to speak on the issue and Mr. Burke declined saying that Mayor Patterson had covered everything.

Reverend James Wiley, Pastor of Oak Grove Church and President of the Ministerial Association, spoke stating the Ministerial Association is opposed to any open container zone. He referenced information of the increased crime, drug use, theft, public drunkenness, fighting, and the need for additional security in areas where this has been allowed. Pastor Wiley shared of a recent compliment a member of his church had received from the parent of a visiting football team on the family atmosphere, courteousness, and wholesomeness of our community. He also shared that the community does not benefit from open containers and only those selling it profit. Pastor Wiley does not feel that Reid Avenue is a place for drinking. A long and thunderous applause was accorded Pastor Wiley for his presentation.

Commissioner Thursbay thanked those present for attending, stated he was a God fearing man, his people did not want this, it was not for our community, and this issue is null and void.

Commissioner Ashbrook shared he was excited to have so much participation, and the issue is now dead because the people have spoken.

Commissioner Lowry noted that he was not for this from the get go, wanted to Workshop the issue, and it is now off the table.

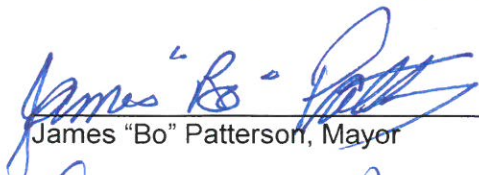
Lori Lacivita shared several disturbing statistics on how Gulf County ranked in the state where alcohol was involved.

James "Benny" Roberts addressed the Commission on how the Closed Container Ordinance came about, issues the City was having prior to the Ordinance, and noted you could not control underage drinking without enforcement. He also reminded those present there had been referendums in the City to prohibit the sale of alcohol on Sunday but a previous Commission decided to go against the wishes of the people and allow it.

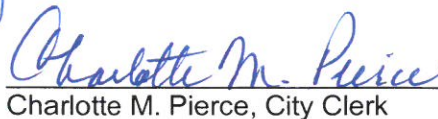
Mary Lou Cumbie thanked the commission for their stance not to approve an Open Container or Entertainment District in Port St. Joe. A resounding applause was given for Mrs. Cumbie's statements and to the Commission for their decision not to allow an Open Container or Entertainment District in Port St. Joe.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to adjourn the Workshop at 6:26 P.M.

Approved this 17th day of October 2017.


James "Bo" Patterson, Mayor

10/17/17
Date


Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

10/17/17
Date