MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
APRIL 24, 2008

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 24, 2008, in the Commissioners Board Room, Watauga County Administration Building. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Liz Aycock, Rennie Brantz, Janet Pepin and Stephen Phillips. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele was also present. Staff members present were Town Manager Greg Young; Town Clerk Freida Van Allen; Assistant to the Manager Jim Byrne; Police Chief Bill Post and Fire Marshal Ronnie Marsh.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a public hearing on the question of having a mixed-drink referendum in the Town of Boone.

Mayor Clawson commented that speakers will be allowed two minutes to speak and that no decision on the matter will be made at this meeting.

Reverend Derrick Wilson of Zionville spoke against alcohol in the Town of Boone and presented Council with a brochure about the effects of alcohol.

Mac Forehand, a resident of Boone and representing the Boone Visitors Bureau, spoke in favor of mixed drinks and felt that citizens of Boone should be allowed to vote on this question.

Jerry Crosby of Todd spoke in favor and felt that liquor should be allowed in Boone since there is no difference between beer, wine and liquor.

Reverend Zane Tester of Vilas and the former Police Chief of Boone spoke against a mixed-drink referendum and said he had a man die in his hands as a result of drunk driving.

Reverend David Ward of Sugar Grove spoke against the issue indicating that the Town does not need liquor by the drink and that County residents should have a say in the matter.

Reverend Eric Cornett of Vilas spoke against the issue, stating that alcohol brings trouble and that most County residents shop and dine in the Town of Boone and do not want liquor by the drink.

Justin Allen of Boone spoke in favor of liquor by the drink and said he is unable to open a restaurant at this time without having liquor by the drink.

Reverend Harold Danner of Vilas spoke against liquor by the drink, said he opposed the sale of beer when it was first legalized in Boone, and stated that he trusts Council will listen to what he says.

Jerry Craig of Boone spoke against the issue and said he is opposed to alcohol in any form.

Reverend TJ Wilson of Zionville spoke against liquor by the drink, indicating that he was representing the 4,680 children in Watauga County and that alcohol is a stumbling block for these children.

Joe Bryan of Boone spoke against and said that, even though changes have occurred in Boone, it does not mean that the changes could not be for the better.

June Pope of Vilas spoke against and said her childhood was robbed because of an alcoholic father.

Karen Prothero of Boone spoke against, stating that she is a victim of a drunk driver and felt that Boone does not need liquor by the drink.

Mike Hedrick of Boone spoke against and begged Council not so send the matter to a vote.
Mike Nelson of Butler TN spoke in favor, stating that he has been a business owner in Boone for

over 12 years and that he would like to compete with neighboring towns.

Adam Newmar of Boone spoke in favor, indicating that liquor by the drink would be good for businesses and that the citizens of Boone should be allowed to vote on this issue.

Reverend Michael Greene of Boone spoke against and said liquor by the drink will allow persons to consume alcohol before driving a vehicle.

Andrew Mason of Boone spoke in favor , stating that over 80% of drunk-driving accidents result from beer drinking and that the Town should educate consumers about the effects of alcohol.

Dale Kirkley of Boone agreed that the Town needs to make positive steps to reduce the misuse of alcohol and that alcohol retailers should keep prices at a retail level.

Lucas McGill of Boone spoke in favor and said allowing mixed drinks will bring corporate businesses to Boone.

Jimmy Galgono of Banner Elk spoke against, stating that more counselors will have to be hired because of alcoholism and that the community needs to take a stand against this issue.

Frederick Coffey of Boone spoke in favor, indicating that most people find it inconvenient not to be able to consume a mixed-drink and that the citizens should be allowed to vote on the matter.

Rich Jacobs of Boone spoke in favor and agreed that Council should allow the people to vote on the matter.

Jeff Templeton of Boone spoke against and asked Council to weigh the fact that the more available liquor is, the more drunk driving there will be.

Curtis Presnell of Boone spoke against, stating that he operates a rehabilitation center in Boone and is proud to have no alcoholics from Boone.

Saul Chase of Boone spoke in favor and said he supports the Town in voting for a mixed beverage referendum.

John Hastings of Vilas spoke in favor and said Council should allow the people in Boone to vote on this matter.

Bunk Spann of Boone spoke neither for or against but asked that Council allow the citizens of Boone to vote on the matter.

Amanda Johnson of Sugar Grove spoke against, stating that she is against all alcohol and asked Council to reconsider allowing a vote.

Page Trimble of Boone spoke in favor, indicating that there is already alcohol in the Town of Boone and that the citizens should be allowed to vote on the matter.

Pastor Sonny Younce of Boone spoke against and asked that Council take into consideration all those that have spoken against the issue.

Rachel Hartley of Boone spoke in favor and said she would like to have the opportunity to vote on the matter.

There being no further comments, the public hearing closed at 7:53 p.m.

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Town Clerk Mayor