

GREENWOOD CITY COUNCIL

May 15, 2006 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Council Members: Mayor Nicholson, Niki Hutto, Linda Edwards, Betty Boles, Herbert Vaughn, Johnny Williams and Barbara Turnburke; City Manager; Assistant City Manager; City Clerk; City Attorney; Joanie Baker from the Index-Journal and Mike Hatfield of WCRS.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting in Council Chambers was called to order by Mayor Nicholson at 5:30 p.m. and he welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Reverend Richard McWhite, Associate Pastor of South Main Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

STATEMENT AND
QUORUM

Mayor Nicholson read the following statement, "In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, Chapter 4, Title 30, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, an agenda has been posted on the front door of City Hall and notification of this meeting has been given to the news media."

The Mayor then asked the City Clerk, Steffanie Dorn, if a quorum was present. She said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor, we have a quorum present."

APPROVAL OF
CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nicholson asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Betty Boles, seconded by Johnny Williams.

The Mayor asked, "Is there any discussion or corrections? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNIZE

Darlene Saxon
of Kingdom
Works
Ministries.

Under Public Appearances, Mayor Nicholson recognized Darlene Saxon, Pastor of Kingdom Works Ministries.

DARLENE SAXON

"Good afternoon, I'm Darlene Saxon. As the itinerary noted, Lyndia Belcher, Sergeant James Richards and I are here on behalf of Kingdom Works Ministries International.

Who are we? We are truly a faith based, 24-hour, community outreach, prevention and intervention program. I think we're all familiar with the 24-hour services that Greenwood has to offer if you desire a hamburger, steak, or even breakfast. You can go to any local restaurant and get 24-hour service to your needs. We are an outreach, prevention, and intervention program that offers 24-hour services also.

Our church doors are open 24 hours as I stated. We are here, not by appointment, but by need. Our outreach ministries include a summer school enrichment program, afterschool reinforcement, along with a boot camp. We all know as families, churches, law enforcement, mothers and fathers, that the need is not necessarily in an eight hour day, meaning 8 (a.m.) to 4 (p.m.). The need that we have for our children and family extends way past the four o'clock hour. There are times late in the evening when we need counsel, our children need help, and parents need prayer. We want you to know that our doors are open for prayer, counsel and any need that you may have.

As far as our summer school enrichment program, it is operated in the summertime as soon as schools are closed until the first day the schools are opened. This enrichment program teaches our children to communicate a second language as well as sign language. We also teach behavior modification and the academic components. We're training and teaching our children to comfortably take the PACT and SAT tests to prepare them for the following year. Most of the time, our children have a tendency to sit at home and do a lot of recreation throughout the summer.

We're not a babysitting program. We are reinforcing everything that has been taught that year and prior to. The main subjects that the students have encountered in school are language, math, social studies and reading. Those are the main subjects that we reinforce throughout the entire summer so they won't have a sleepy brain. We're trying to keep them active and excited about the next year.

There is a tutorial service at our afterschool reinforcement program where we have a one-on-one service for each of our children. We work with the school system and we also have a personal e-mail address that the schools can e-mail us. They can keep that one-on-one communication with our services so that we can give that student the best and utmost services that coincide with the schooling.

We also reinforce all the learning courses and conduct. Behavior is one thing in our church services that we make sure are shared with our children. We're learning that once we can control behavior and conduct in school all of our children are able to exceed and excel. This is what we're trying to promote. I can tell you, as far as responses from the schools and parents, we have had children (as you can see along the wall) that have stayed on the 'A' and 'B' Honor Roll. We have schools that have also sent us letters of recommendation as to the positive, clear thinking, learning examples that our children are setting in our public schools.

Kingdom Works Ministries have a boot camp also. And as you can see (pointing on the overhead), our 12 week program have a "?" there. The average boot camp runs about six months, but with our facility and the arraignments that we have, we're only able to run a twelve week program. This 12 week program has always been something positive. John Blakely is one of our prime examples. This young man came into our program after being expelled from school with behavior issues and just whatever other things our children tend to get into. Now, I can tell you that reformation has truly taken place. This young man now is a part of our program. He has come back, not only to teach and train, but as a part of our staff. He's an encourager and we use him as a mentor even with the peers that are of his age.

We're teaching character building, discipline, and self esteem which I've learned means a whole lot to our children. They're trying to become a part of the environment that surrounds them, but we're teaching our children to be individuals and be who God created you to be. Once self esteem has been established, then you have a child that is ready to go with whatever system that you're going to place before them.

Our behavior modification program not only works with just the attitude itself, but self esteem and discipline as well. We use Sergeant Richards in this area where he's using military reinforcement to build confidence and teaches teamwork. I think our young men have learned more than anything that, 'If one guy needs you in the whole camp, then guess what? Everybody must be there for that need.' Our children are learning that it is not about an individual but about a cycle, a family, a health group, nourishing support and being there for one another. That is what this boot camp has taught and has truly been instilled in our children.

The question may be, how can you help? Well, I'll tell you how. You can help us by of course recruitment and referrals. We always want to do better and are looking for ways to make this program the best that it can possibly be. We have our doors open to whatever advice or administrative direction that you're willing to give, especially accommodations.

Let me tell you about Ketorius Clark, a young man that interrupted our evening Sunday service. His parents drove up from Saluda, South Carolina, to bring him to our boot camp service. We teach not only behavior modification but to help them get caught up educationally. This young man needed us to the point to where he had to have housing. Well, we were to either turn him around or keep him. The biggest problem that we have is accommodations but I'm thankful that one of our mentors, being a single man and our youth minister, was able to agree to the proposition from his parents. Now, this young man will be staying with us on campus for the next 60 days. We'll be doing with him everything that I stated, as far as the boot camp information that I've given you, but he'll also be getting information spiritually. We'll be preparing him to be tested and to get into his right grade.

We're talking about a young man that has a couple of years behind him, but has been expelled from school.

As far as a ratio, of the two years that we have truly been active, I can say that there's only one child that just chose not to do better. We have had a 99% positive ratio to the clearing, change of heart, and positive mindset to those children that are now ready to go into our community and give us a positive response to what we need. They're ready to be workable citizens and to do their part. The mentality that a lot of our young people walk in, 'The world owes me something.' Well, guess what? Now, they're out there ready to give.

Our contact information is myself, of course, Darlene Saxon. Our address is 112 High Street in Greenwood, South Carolina. Our church number is (864) 223-4089. I can also be reached at my cell number 341-3346 and e-mail: kingdom_worksm@yahoo.com.

I truly appreciate your ears and attentiveness. I can honestly say I feel and sense sincere hearts in this place. Thank you again."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you, Ms. Saxon. We just want to commend you and the other people involved in your church for the difference that you're making in our community. We will also be by to visit your facility. Thank you."

EMPLOYEE AWARD
PRESENTATIONS

Police Chief Gerald Brooks presented the Medal of Valor to two Police Officers.

POLICE CHIEF
BROOKS

"Mr. Mayor and Members of Council, you're probably aware that several weeks ago, two of our police officers came under fire while performing their duties. Thanks be to God, neither officer was injured. When our SLED investigation was complete, I nominated Master Patrolman Tony Gary and Lieutenant Jeremiah Atkins for the Medal of Valor from the South Carolina Police Chiefs Association. The awards committee met and weighed the circumstances of this incident and actions of those officers against the criteria previously established by the full association.

As a result, the South Carolina Police Chiefs Association has awarded the Medal of Valor to both officers and has granted me, as a Past President, the privilege of presenting those awards.

Before I call those officers forward, I'd like to ask their fellow officers to stand where they are. A number of officers could not be present this afternoon. Some are on patrol and answering calls while others had scheduling conflicts, but I'd like you to know something about these that are present as well as those that are absent. These are brave men and women that have proven they're willing to put themselves in harm's way to keep this community safe. To paraphrase George Orwell, 'People sleep safely in their beds at night because of police officers such as these.' The people of Greenwood owe them a debt of gratitude that they will never be able to repay. (applause) Now, I ask that Tony and Jay come forward and stand while I read their citation.

On Saturday, April 1, 2006, a shooting incident had erupted at Mineral Court Apartments in the City of Greenwood. The shooting suspect, Sergio Gonzalez, fled from the scene in a red Camaro armed with a 9mm semi automatic pistol. Master Patrolman Tony Gary located the suspect's vehicle traveling North on Hampton Avenue and initiated a traffic stop. Lieutenant Jeremiah Atkins arrived on the scene to provide backup, as did a unit from the Sheriff's Office. The shooting suspect, Sergio Gonzalez, opened fire and began shooting at the officers. The officers returned fire while directing motorists and bystanders away from the scene and out of harms way. The shooting suspect, Gonzalez, sustained a single gunshot wound and fell to the pavement that ended the gunfight, which consisted of more than 20 rounds being fired at a busy intersection in broad daylight. No officers or innocent civilians sustained any injury however one civilian vehicle and a Sheriff Department vehicle were damaged by gunfire from Gonzalez. Master Patrolman Tony Gary and Lieutenant Jeremiah Atkins performed in an exemplary manner while under fire. Their actions were consistent with their training, departmental policy, and State statutes while bringing credit to themselves, their department, and the law enforcement profession. It is my honor to present them with these Medals of Valor.

Chief Brooks then placed the medals on the officers.

(Standing Ovations along with Applause)

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"I just want to congratulate the two officers for the awards they received. I also want to thank all our officers in the City of Greenwood who do a great job of maintaining order and making sure that we have a safe community for our families to live. Again, we congratulate and commend you for a job well done each and everyday. Thank you."

CONSIDER

Ordinance No.
06-014 Amending
Ordinance 00-
025, TERI
Program Policy.

Under public hearings, Mayor Nicholson said, "The format that we employ at the public hearings is, if there is anyone here to speak, we ask that you come to the podium, state your name and address for the record and try to limit your comments to no more than three or four minutes."

(2nd reading)

The Mayor then read the first item and asked, "Mr. Brown, do you have any remarks in reference to this?"

STEVEN BROWN

"No sir. This is second reading with no changes."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Is there anyone here to speak in favor of amending this ordinance? Is there anyone opposing? Alright. Seeing and hearing none, we will take action. As you know this is second reading. Do I have a motion that we amend the ordinance?"

A motion was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Herbert Vaughn.

"Are there any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the second public hearing and recognized the City Manager.

Ordinance No.
06-022 Amending
City of
Greenwood
Official Zoning
Map (Ordinance
No. 04-020) by
Rezoning
Property
(Approximately
0.21 Acres)
Located at 119
Wells Avenue,
From OPI
(Office/Professi
onal/Institutor
al) to PDD
(Planned
Development)

(1st reading)

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor and City Council, all of Self Regional properties are included in the Planned Development District. They have recently purchased this property and requested the Planning Board to annex it into their existing PDD. The Planning Board has recommended you to do that and I don't know of any problems with it, so I would recommend that you adopt the ordinance also."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. Thank you, Mr. Brown. Is there anyone here to speak in favor of amending the zoning ordinance to include this property? Is there anyone opposing? Alright. Seeing and hearing none, we will close the public hearing."

This is the first reading. Do I have a motion?"

A motion was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Betty Boles.

"Are there any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the last public hearing and recognized the City Manager.

Amending
Ordinance 04-
019, Permitting
Outdoor Cafes
within the
Great Greenwood
Square to Serve
Beer and Wine
to Seated
Patrons on City
Sidewalks and
Public
Property.

(1st reading)

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor and City Council Members, a few years ago you adopted an ordinance which allows cafés on public sidewalks and streets in the Greater Greenwood Square. At that time, you were also considering the serving and consumption of beer and wine at the cafés. Council, at that time, decided you did not want beer and wine to be served to seated patrons in those café areas and removed that red section in the ordinance. If you remember at the work session, I told you about a number of people in the community who requested that you place this back on your agenda. You directed me to put it on the agenda and we advertised it for a public hearing."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. Thank you, Mr. Brown. I know Ms. Debbie Turner has another engagement and asked that she be out by six, so I'll allow her to speak first."

DEBBIE TURNER

"Thank you, Mayor Nicholson and Members of City Council. I appreciate the opportunity to share my opposition to the outdoor café ordinance. As I have already mailed each of you a letter detailing each of my objections, in the interest of time tonight, I'm going to limit my comments to the argument that I feel is the most compelling. That is, liberalizing our policies related to alcohol consumption threatens the health of our community, particularly that of our children."

Let me begin by saying that I have tremendous respect and support for those in our community who are seeking to strengthen our local economy by revitalizing our Uptown area. I have no interest in condemning anyone or stating that one person is more or less righteous than another because of your position on this issue. However, I am simply opposed to any plan which promotes the consumption of alcohol as a necessary component of that growth.

I'm sure that almost everyone here, at one point in the recent past, looked at the messages that our kids are getting from the media, movies, television, music and radio and asked yourself the question, 'How did we ever get to a place where it seems that almost anything goes?' Tonight, I'm here to tell you how we got to such a place. It's by making one small compromise after another like the one before you tonight. We'll make one and don't feel any immediate repercussion, so we make another and another until we find ourselves somewhere that we never intended to be. Once we're there it's very difficult to go back.

I understand how tempting it is to look at a decision like this and seeing it as having no direct negative impact on an individual, such as a victimless compromise. Allow me to put a face on this for you. I'd like to share with you a conversation that I had with a young man, who I'm going to call Jacob, just a couple of weeks ago. Jacob is a beautiful, very intelligent, very articulate young man with many gifts to offer the world. He's in his early 20's, but about a year ago Jacob's opportunities to positively impact his world were greatly diminished.

On that particular evening, Jacob and his best friend were out having a good time with their friends. While driving home, Jacob failed to make a curve and the car he was driving slammed into a tree. Jacob survived, barely, but his friend didn't and they both have been drinking. His voice broke as he described to me the crushing guilt that he feels over this incident and how he spends as much time with his family trying to make up for the loss of their son. Nothing does. He also described to me the overwhelming fear that consumes him as his court date is approaching. Jacob understands that he's likely to go to jail for a long time and is very worried about what could happen to him there.

As the date gets closer, Jacob shared with me that his thoughts frequently turned to suicide because he feels he's in an impossible situation and that appears to offer his only escape. But you see, for Jacob, that escape puts him in a more terrible place because he also told me that he doesn't believe in God.

You might be thinking, 'Well, sad story Debbie, but what does that have to do with me?' Jacob and his friend were adults who knew the dangers of drinking and driving but made that decision to drive, so they're responsible. And you know what? I agree with you about personal accountability. They made the decision to drink and get in that car so, yes, they're responsible for that decision. Yet we can't ignore the reality that our kids are bombarded daily with messages from the media, music, TV, movies, and in some cases even their very own parents that drinking alcohol is the fun and cool thing to do and the best way to have fun. Do you think that Jacob's decisions were impacted by hearing this message as he was growing up?

You know, we put temptation right in front of our kids and expect them to wait until they're old enough to drink responsibly. Young people are not making that decision, judging from the number of adults that leave a bar or a party and immediately get in their car to drive home, sometimes with their kids with them. Adults aren't making that distinction either. It's any wonder that alcohol kills more children than all drugs combined. Can we really claim to be blameless when we created the monster that encourages them to participate?

If we continually push back the boundaries that define what is acceptable in our society, then we must personally bare some responsibility when our children push those boundaries out further than we ever intended them to go. We are raising a generation of youth who lack clear boundaries because we failed to establish and maintain our own. Our standards are all too often simple lines in the sand that shift to the left or the right, depending on the situation or quite shamefully the potential for financial gain. So every time a Jacob goes to jail or a friend dies, if we're honest, a portion of that blame belongs on our shoulders as well.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that your life is insulated from this sort of thing because you trained your kids and talked to them about the dangers. You have an important voice, but you're not the only influence in your child's life. Chances are, if they haven't already, that your life at some point will likely be impacted by the damaging effects of alcohol. It is a killer that touches everyone.

Mr. Mayor and Council Members, there was a time when the idea of bringing alcohol consumption to our streets, promoting events where alcohol is served as family-friendly and suggesting that parents bring their kids to these events that glamorize alcohol consumption as something that well educated and sophisticated people desire to do all for the sake of making a dollar or two, would have been appalling to us. What has happened to us that we would allow this to happen? We can no longer pretend that we exist in a vacuum and our choices don't have a lasting impact on the lives of those whom we touch. Today, you have an opportunity to send a very clear message that Greenwood values our children. That message will draw people to our City. Or, you can toss one more handful of dirt on the avalanche that is already threatening our kids. I am fervently praying that you take the position that when it comes to setting positive, healthy examples for our children in Greenwood, that there are some boundaries that are not negotiable. Thank you for your time."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you, Ms. Turner. Since Ms. Turner spoke in opposition to the permit, are there other individuals who are opposed to it that would like to speak?"

REVEREND CURT
EIDSON

"Thank you, Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council. First of all, my name is Curt Eidson and I'm the Pastor of Emerald Baptist Church on East Laurel Avenue. For the past 15 years, it's been a privilege of mine to pastor some wonderful people. For about six years, I've been privilege to live here in Greenwood. One of the first things that my family and I did was, upon receiving the call from the church, we made a tour of Greenwood to see if it was going to be the kind of place we wanted to raise our two boys. We found very quickly that it was and we're very happy that we are residents of Greenwood. Now, I know it might concern you when a minister takes the floor that you probably don't

know how long he's gonna talk.

I promise that my comments this evening are going to be very brief.

As members of the City Council, the outdoor café ordinance that is before you today is not what the City of Greenwood needs. Now, I know that there's a group moving this ordinance. I understand they have a very strong voice within the community to get the ordinance passed. I respect their right to have their say and I certainly hope they'll respect my right to have mine. I think we get in trouble when an issue comes up that has a potential to divide us as citizens of Greenwood. We need more things to unify us than to have things that are going to possibly divide us.

A few years ago, I remember commercials on television that featured the tennis player, Andre Agassi. The slogan that he was pushing for the Cannon Camera Company was 'Image is Everything'. Greenwood, today, has a wonderful image to present to those who are possibly considering moving their family, business or industry to our great City. I have to ask you, as Members of the City Council, are you ready today to sell our family friendly environment of downtown Greenwood for just a few dollars? I assume that the passing of this ordinance is going to help in the recruiting of industry to Greenwood. I appreciate their stance, however, I just have a hard time buying into that concept.

Ladies and gentlemen, what is before you tonight is more than an economic issue but a moral issue. Are sidewalks, if this ordinance is passed, going to be taken from us and handed over to a select few where they will be able to consume their beer or wine? Now, if a person chooses to drink, that's their choice. I understand that every human being is a free moral agent. They can chose to do whatever they want to do, but do it in a place or restaurant that's already serving beer or wine or do it in their home. Simply keep our sidewalks free and family friendly for the environment that we all want to have here in Greenwood. So why do we want to move it to the sidewalks if the restaurants are already serving it? Why would we need to bring it out to the sidewalks? It just doesn't make any sense.

Not only am I a Pastor of the church here in Greenwood, I also drive a bus for School District

50.

I see these kids and the influence that they're under. I noticed we have police officers in our schools who teach the DARE Program that educates our children to avoid the influence of drugs and alcohol. But then we're gonna have activities in downtown Greenwood where the children must walk on the sidewalks and be presented with this when we're trying to teach them to avoid these things. They're getting a mixed message. Is it right or is it wrong?

Now, there may be a solution to this whole problem. If members really believe this is something that Greenwood needs to have, if it's within the legal framework of this, simply make this a referendum. Put it on the ballot, not just those who live in the City, but all citizens of Greenwood County because everyone is going to be using the downtown area. Then let every voice of every registered voter here in Greenwood County be heard. If everyone is given the opportunity to speak for or against it when they press the button or mark a box of their choice in the ballot box, let it be said and done. We will then receive whatever the majority says, but I'm opposed to this.

Mr. Mayor, I hope you received the petitions that I brought to your office today, as I dropped a copy to the City Manager. There are well over 300 names and this was just in one day. The people stand opposed to this. However, as members of the City Council and Mayor, I understand that as a Pastor I'm commanded in the scripture to pray for you because you are the authorities placed over us. I just pray that you'll make the right choice for the whole, not just for the select few. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you. Is there anyone else to speak in opposition?"

PHILLIP MCMINN

"Mr. Mayor and Council, my name is Phil McMinn and I am the Pastor of South Main Street Baptist Church just down the street from you. We have quite a few folks here from our church that are residents of the City, as you recognize them. I won't take a lot of time.

I do strongly oppose it for a variety of different reasons not the least of which is your own personal stands. We live in a country that has a great deal

of personal freedom and we're grateful for that.

I won't teach you lessons there, but that personal freedom is constantly limited by the responsibility that the government has to protect.

To my right sits a man whose responsibility is to double check the fire safety of this and every other facility. So much so that if I was to build a home here, no matter what my personal persuasion is on that matter, he would not allow me to move into it until it met his code. That's his responsibility and every other aspect.

To the back are those who have worn the blue that we've seen honored. They watch for the safety belts. Now, personally, it doesn't really matter whether you think safety belt laws are good or bad. You can have your own civil disobedience about it, but the fact is the government stepped in to decide that this is a good or a bad thing. The reason they did it was because they have a responsibility to protect.

This issue is really about protection. It's about you being responsible to protect those who are apart of the City. It's interesting that, when it comes to the fire safety code, we never considered the building cost when we decided whether we're going to put in a sprinkler system. We never considered the cost when we told people that they have to wear seatbelts or a helmet. The greater good is more important than the cost of the temporal issue.

It is extremely important then that those who serve in the legal making bodies recognize that their responsibility must supersede that which is the economic issue. Certainly, as a city that has a 7%+ in the unemployment rate, we desperately need a new industry to come here. We need to be constantly concerned about the economics of our community.

Yet, the question has to come to us, 'How many drinks at an outdoor café will it take to impair one's thinking?' My guess is that, if science is right, one begins to impair the thinking. As a Pastor, I deal constantly with those whose families are falling apart because someone took one drink. I know of men and women who have had adulterous relationships because of one drink. One drink caused them to think differently about the person

sitting across the table from them.

It is their personal right, but how do you tell that to their children when their mom and dad are screaming because of the adulterous relationship? Now they're separated, the home is fractured and society as a whole is now made weaker. How do you deal with it when you have children who come home and find that their dad or their mom has had one drink at a sidewalk café? Now, because their judgment is slightly impaired, they're willing to smack, throw or may God forbid burn that child. I think government has a responsibility to protect those who are innocent as its first run. Oh, let's not forget those who drive drunk.

One of the greatest economic engines in this town, I have learned as a new resident, is a hospital that has been shown on a slide and is just down the street. It was put here, as I'm told the story, by a family who was radically committed to the protection of this community. So they put their name out there and all of us know exactly who it is. I wish I could speak to the founder who made the Self legacy what it is and was willing to pour so much into it and to make this community a place where health and safety were its central figure. I wonder, if he were here, how he would approach this. I know we're really grateful at South Main that he had a vision that said, 'I'm gonna do the very best to make this City all that it can be.' Three weeks ago our staff member, who leads our music department, had a heart attack. Because of the influence of what took place decades ago, we still have him. Some of you still have your families because someone sought to protect and care for you.

I know the economic issue is important. Lord knows I want to do everything I can. I suggested to our church family that we be about the business of enlisting the folks in our community just to pray, not to try and proselyte, but to pray that their business prospers. But what's the impact gonna be when you lose the revenue of all the people who might already go? What's it gonna say to the community when all of a sudden we decided that family friendliness is not our cardinal marketing issue? I'm fearful and genuinely concerned when we cast our responsibility aside, in terms of public safety, simply for the issue of a few tax dollars that may or may not come in. I want to thank you for your time."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you. Is there anyone else to speak in opposition?"

MARGIE
CULBERTSON

"I'm not a preacher, just a woman who was born and grew up in Greenwood. I'm Margie Culbertson of 623 Locksley Drive. I'm a wife and a mother.

I remember when I was little that the thing to do on Saturday was to come Uptown. There was a grocery store and I remember my favorite place was the Kress Dime Store. I realize that it was a couple of years ago, but I wonder what happened to the stores. I realize that it's important to grow the economy and build the Uptown, but why can't we bring stores into downtown that people will shop? So to speak if you build them, they will come. I think about the things that we do to entice industry by cutting in their taxes and stuff. Why not consider what we can do to draw some of those businesses into downtown that will bring shoppers?

I remember how busy downtown was when I was young and there was no alcohol being served out on the streets. The streets are public property. Isn't there an open container law against drinking on public property? Are we going to give these restaurants the sidewalks? It would be under their control and no longer public property for us to come and go. Because the sidewalks are public property, is that not against the law? So what are we going to do about that law? Are we going to compromise? Really, it all is about compromise.

I realize that people are going in many restaurants and drinking in little bits or a lot and there's nothing we can do about that. This is something we can do right now by not inching a little bit closer and closer. I can just see the festivals and people aren't going to be sitting down drinking drinks on the sidewalk. They're going to be roaming with the alcohol where there are a lot of children roaming and we know what kind of situation can happen.

Speaking for my own family, I have a husband who practically forbids me to shop out of Greenwood. At Christmastime, everybody is going to Greenville and Anderson but we have to shop in Greenwood. I'm a mother who got a really wonderful Mother's Day present; a gift certificate to a spa. It happens

to be from Skin Essentials on Waller Avenue in Uptown.

If we will put businesses in Uptown and entice them to come in, whether it is a break on the rent for a period of time or whatever it may be, people will shop in those businesses. It does not take alcohol. There is nothing good that can come from it. If people want to drink, there are a lot of places in Greenwood that they can drink.

I know they say that Greenwood's a small town and we want to be sophisticated like Greenville where everybody can sit out and enjoy a sip of wine. Well, I didn't choose to live in Greenville. I chose to live in Greenwood. There are a lot of people moving to this community because we have not lost that hometown feel and is family friendly. Older people coming to retire are choosing this town because of those very reasons. If we wanted to live in a city like Greenville, we would move there, but we don't. We like Greenwood. It's not that we don't want Greenwood to grow, but there are more positive ways to do it than to spread alcohol consumption. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you. Is there anyone else to speak in opposition?"

JAMES A.
REYNOLDS

"Mr. Mayor and Council Members, my name is James A. Reynolds of 630 Cobb Trailer Park, lot number 36. I'll just get directly to the point. The point is this, I disapprove this. This is my hometown. I was born and raised here on Mill Street and I cannot stand by and watch this town get saturated with every kind of booze or drug there is. We fight the drug lords everyday. There are plenty of them in this town and drugs keep coming in. We keep trying to catch them, but we are not. My question is, are we catching up or are we getting further behind with this drug situation? You know better than I do because I don't spend all my time here. I've been here for two years this time. I came here before trying to do something about it. Gerald Brooks and the Sheriff know me and what I stand for.

My dad was an alcoholic, Mr. Mayor. We suffered miserably because of that. We didn't have decent clothes to wear. Do you know what it's like to go to school with holes in your shoes? I've been there. There's nothing in the cabinet to eat

because my daddy was an alcoholic. He died a miserable death at the State Hospital. This is why I am here today. This is why I fight it everyday.

I have one petition here and there are others that are supposed to be here too. They probably turned them in because I gave them out. This is from the North Greenwood Church of God and I'm representing them today. They signed this for me and I'm sure you got others. I would appreciate it if you would consider forgetting about putting this alcohol on the streets because we got enough already. You can go in any place and get all you want to drink right here in our town.

I don't want it to be another New York City. Believe me, I've gone through there enough times to see all the ungodliness that's in that town. I've seen them strip automobiles in daylight while going through the interstate system. I hauled cars down to Florida for people up North who went South for the winter. I know what it's like trying to go through New York with an 18 wheeler loaded with cars. New York City is one of the worst places in the world for drugs on the streets, as all of you know. We don't want this town to be a duplicate of New York City or any other big town. I ask all of you to please consider not putting these alcoholic beverages out there on the street. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you Mr. Reynolds. Is there anyone else to speak in opposition? Is there anyone here to speak in favor of?"

BILL WILSON

"My name is Bill Wilson and I'm the owner of Thayer's Fine Gifts in Uptown Greenwood. I live at 121 Westgate Drive which is in the County. It would seem hard to stand up here and speak against such heart felt feelings that my predecessors have had. I do feel for them, but I'm gonna address my comments to the City Council.

I'm gonna give you some of my qualifications. I've been on the Square in Greenwood for 39 years and owned my own business for 30 years. I've seen most of the memorable changes happen to the Square in Greenwood. I've seen it go down, come up and recede again.

The former speakers talked about a lot of things that we all feel strongly about and probably support them in a lot of ways. However, not

passing this ordinance will not stop alcoholism nor passing this ordinance will increase it.

This is not the cure-all, fix-all of Uptown Greenwood, but we have a large number of people that would like the option of being able to go into a café or restaurant. At this point, we only have two or three. Even if it's a pretty day or evening, if someone would like to have their meal on the sidewalk, they'd like the option of ordering wine or a beer with it. Serving beer or wine on the sidewalk is no different than serving it at a table next to the window of the sidewalk.

I dare say that most of the people who spoke against this, and I know they're as serious and very dedicated as they can be, do not avoid all the restaurants in Greenwood that sell beer and wine inside. Since they're on private property, they can serve it on the outside if they have outdoor venues. They also don't avoid Clemson and Carolina football games.

Alcohol is here to stay. Some people use it responsibly and some people don't. The people that want to use it are going to make the choice to go where they can enjoy their evening meal, or afternoon relaxation when they're off work, and if they choose not to come here it hinders the growth of Uptown.

As emotional as this can be, I want this to stay on an economic scale even though a lot of people used words like 'saturated with booze', or 'unruly sidewalks'. I own three buildings Uptown. I wouldn't consider doing something that I thought would damage my business or the value of my property. I also would not consider doing anything that I thought would hurt the children of this community.

Responsible people do enjoy their wine and beer. If it's something that you're opposed to then you must avoid it. However, the people that have invested in Uptown, and the majority of them own their property, believe in having a more relaxed atmosphere where people can be seen dining on the sidewalks. It's not illegal to drink beer or wine. It may be on public property now, but that's why we're offering this ordinance. They'll see what kind of town we have. If you think that seeing

somebody drinking a beer or wine on the sidewalk will cause people to not move to Greenwood, I respectfully disagree. I feel like this is not going to make or break us, but be one more plus to making Uptown more acceptable.

I want to say to Council, if in your heart you feel that the serving of alcohol is something you would do away with entirely, then you should vote against it. If you haven't visited the cafés and restaurants on the By-pass to see how many people do enjoy doing this, some are drinking and some aren't, then you need to consider those who have invested a lot in this Uptown. We waived the possibility that some people won't enjoy it, but I don't see these people staying away from Fatz Café, Capri's, Outback, or any of the other really nice restaurants around town that serve alcohol. If Council can walk in that restaurant with your children, enjoy a meal and see other people enjoying their meals with or without alcohol, can you honestly say that you're going to deny that to the people Uptown that want to use the café? They don't own the property but pay taxes to support Uptown. Can you in your heart say, 'Well, they shouldn't do that.' Well, of course they shouldn't if it's done wrong. How many times have you seen people in these nice restaurants abuse it? I don't know of any. Maybe there have been, and I'm sure there will be, but we can't stop people from wanting to enjoy their wine, beer or whatever libations they want. You're hog-tying and hamstringing the merchants Uptown that would like to.

We have three restaurants. Regan's is now closed. We can attract more restaurants, more people active on the streets and more businesses. Someone said, 'Why can't we do something different besides opening the outside cafés for serving beer and wine?' People shop where there's convenience and where they enjoy going. A lot of people choose to have a beer or wine with their meal. If you honestly believe that it's more detrimental to have beer and wine on the sidewalk than it is to have it at a table by the window in any restaurant downtown, then you'll have to vote your heart and conviction. I believe there's no difference if it's controlled and I'm sure the City would control it in the inside or outside. The one advantage of having it outside is that people can see other people enjoying their meal outside. A lot of people won't come if they can't enjoy it wherever they want; inside or outside.

I hope you will consider how you would feel about going to restaurants that serve alcohol.

If you don't believe in serving alcohol, is it your reasoning or the sympathetic, heart-felt problems that people have with alcohol? If you're going to vote that way, but feel that it's okay to take your children to any of these other cafés, you need to weigh how you're gonna vote. Thank you for listening."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you, Bill."

JEFF FOWLER

"I'm Jeff Fowler of 109 Tifton Drive. Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council, thank you for letting me address you on this important matter of jobs, small businesses and the economic vitality of our community. I took the liberty of actually calling Pastor Lane figuring he might want to crucify me, but he's a very nice fellow and we get along very well. One of the reasons we were able to disagree is actually found in Exodus 14 and I can read it to you. 'There were 12 stones (different stones I might add) one of each with the names of the sons of Israel. Each engraved like a seal with the name of one of the 12 tribes.' Just like we have been debating for many centuries, some of us are hailed from the same faith (at least here in the U.S.) but may have different interpretations and beliefs.

Today, we're really no different. It's not an 'Us versus them', 'We're better than they are', or 'We're sophisticated and they're not' issue. It's really a matter of both groups who have an interest in Greenwood and that is something to get excited about. That is something to say, 'Hey, we got a bunch of people here that care about Greenwood, what's going on here and how to take Greenwood to the next level.' I think that's a thing to rally around. We may differ on opinion of how we want to accomplish that task, but we're all still here for the best interest of Greenwood.

My group that we represent tonight is the Greenwood Partnership Alliance. We're 23 business interests in the County and range from small proprietors to multi-billion dollar investors in the success of Greenwood. Our plea is simple. We ask one thing: Let people decide with their dollars. At the end of the day, we have a belief that we do create a

family atmosphere. We've been doing that for the past year and a half without incident or arrest with our Live after Five. I may be wrong in this, but we ask that you allow the proprietors in Uptown to serve alcohol out on the streets.

Obviously, State Law says there can never be liquor. Open container laws in this State only deals with liquor and that prohibition also deals with beer and wine in a moving vehicle.

All that we're asking is to allow the people to vote. The people vote by saying, 'I'm gonna come and frequent your restaurant.' Or they may vote, 'No, I'm not gonna come and frequent your restaurant.' I can guarantee you that the folks who own the restaurants and are invested in Greenwood will decide if they want to sell that alcohol out there or not. If they do decide, then that means our position was correct. If they don't decide to put it out there, then that means the opposition is correct. However, the best place to let that be determined is by market forces.

Second, some of us may ask, 'Why is the Partnership supporting this issue?' If you knew the inner workings in our staff, everybody could tell you that I do not like taking political issues. It's not something that I enjoy doing, nor do I think it's something I think we should be doing. On occasion, we do when it's voted on by the Board for us to take a position. One of the reasons why they did is, at present, Greenwood County loses \$800 million in taxable sales each year. Year after year we lose 80% of that to Greenville, Columbia, Augusta, and to a smaller extent, Anderson and Spartanburg. Will this amendment fix the problem? No, absolutely not, but it will help.

Why do I say it'll help? Well, time and time again cities from across the country that have had the most success in revitalization all started with a grassroots effort around restaurants. I didn't really know that until we started working on the visitors and tourism center we're trying to bring to Greenwood County. One of the things we did learn is that restaurants are an attraction and a destination. Typically, these types of restaurants are smaller and locally owned. They don't have to be in a location that is around everything else. They can bring people in by the sheer fact of the type of food they serve and the activities that they promote. There are several examples in Newberry, Greenville, Spartanburg, Columbia and

throughout the whole state where there are different areas in the community that have been revitalized simply by restaurants or gentrification housing.

The Uptown of Greenwood is no longer what it used to be 10 to 25 years ago. We've heard that stated a couple of times tonight. My job that I take very seriously, and I think everyone on Council knows this, is to ensure the economic vitality of, not only the City, but the County. We have to do things differently. We have to recruit differently and have been doing that with some success. Let me shamelessly promote May 23rd at the Federal Building. At 6:30, we will be having a State of Economic Greenwood. There will also be a little bit of excitement because we will be announcing a project that evening. We're also recruiting retail, commercial, and retirees. We're the only group in the state who are trying to get more retirees, retail and commercial establishments in County. We're trying to fund and help with the school system. We're also promoting outdoor festivals like Live after Five to draw more tourist into the area.

We're doing things differently because the definition of insanity is to keep doing the same thing and expecting different results. We can't have the same results because I talked to the folks at the One Stop when we have job fairs. We have 3,400 people in this County that do not have jobs. That's not to mention all the surrounding Counties that look to us as leadership to help provide some of those jobs. I'm here to address that issue. I believe that this amendment will enhance the quality of life for people in Greenwood and attract those that are looking to move and visit here. Now, if I'm wrong, the consequences of my error in judgment are self regulating.

This brings us back to the major point; let the people decide. If the patrons of Uptown decide not to come here because there's alcohol being served on the streets, then the owner of those restaurants will decide not to serve alcohol. If there are more patrons that do, then they will. You guys have seen our City Center Master Plan in trying to revitalize the area. More jobs will be created for those people that have a harder time finding jobs.

Thank you for your time and patience. If there are any questions about the study done by Clemson

University and the University of Georgia about the statistics of what we can expect in terms of job creation into the City because of different aspects, not just this, I'll be happy to answer any of them. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you."

CHARLES STRAWN

"Mr. Mayor and Members of Council, my name is Chuck Strawn. I live at 103 Blue Herring Court in Greenwood County. I'm representing our Chamber of Commerce and this issue was brought before us for discussion. I won't kid you that it was a pretty heated discussion with many of the same viewpoints that have been brought up this evening. The Board listened to those views and took a vote to see on which side we stood. That vote was heavily in favor of recommending this amendment and add these words back in as was proposed.

I'd like to read a section of a letter that I sent to Mr. Brown addressing that and to give the Chamber's view as we determined that evening: 'Greenwood is a community full of promise and opportunity - a town full of people and organizations dedicated to improving our quality of life. Numerous groups, businesses, and individuals are dedicated to making Greenwood the number one small town in which to live in the country. Members of City Council have a unique opportunity to compress the time schedule of Greenwood's revitalization by supporting the proposed amendment to the outdoor café ordinance.

Approving this ordinance will encourage more diverse activities and organizations and community members to support the development of the Emerald Triangle District, Greenwood Community Theatre, Museums, Arts Council, (and) Uptown activities (and various other opportunities for our future). These activities will lead to increased of visitors and commerce for Greenwood. These progressive efforts to invest in Greenwood's future will not only assist existing county industries and businesses to attract a professional work force but also encourage new economic activity(ies) (as Jeff indicated).

The Greenwood Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Partnership Alliance and the Uptown Greenwood Development Corporation in their effort to advance the development of the City Center

Master Plan.

We hope that you will support this particular ordinance as it will embrace our ability to attract more tourists to grow and develop our small businesses thus supporting the lifeblood of our community and retaining more investment dollars in Greenwood.'

As for the individual Chuck Strawn sake, I would never take issue with any of these fine people and their beliefs or moral fiber. I agree with what I heard earlier. This is not a matter of righteousness. It's legal to drink liquor and alcohol today, but does that mean we should endorse it at our children's level? No. We should bring, at an individual level, responsible acts as mature adults. I believe that this can be handled in a mature way and I support the amendment."

HOWARD H.
TURNER, JR.

"Hello, Council. I'm Chip Turner of 306 Poplar Hill Road. I'm the owner of H.H. Turner Jewelers and my family have been merchants for over 100 years. The new generation learns the values and business techniques of the older generations as we grow up in the business.

The reason I tell you this is because today, I'm not doing one of the things I was taught and that is staying out of politics. The reason for this is because I have good customers on both sides of this issue. All reasoning and decisions stems from an angle of a merchant whose livelihood depends on their customers' opinion of them, their goods and services. Controversy is usually avoided.

As I look around this room, I see good customers who are not in favor of our Council passing this ordinance. All I can say is that your Uptown Merchants are some of the best in this City at what we do. We live our lives everyday to do the best we can for our valued customers. If anyone here, or any one of your constituents you share your opinions with, would choose not to shop with myself or any of my fellow merchants because of today's discussions and outcomes, I say from the bottom of my heart, it'll be a true tragedy.

The reason I stand before you today is because of

my position as President of the Uptown Greenwood Development Corporation. My desire and commitment is for Uptown Greenwood to prosper and grow to unlimited heights. I, along with many of your other fine merchants in the Uptown area, choose Uptown as the place we want to be.

We enjoy the comradery and atmosphere that the Uptown offers. I don't want to move to the mall or the By-pass. This is why we need Uptown to prosper and be all it can be.

The issue at hand today is not one of morals or favor, in my opinion. The vast majority of Uptown business owners, myself included, is good Christian people, attends church on a regular basis, would go out of their way to help anyone and support any good cause. The issue at hand today in my opinion is purely a matter of economics, Council. It is about giving Uptown businesses, in this situation our restaurants, the same chance of success in Uptown as what they would have if they chose to locate somewhere else in our City. If T.W. Boons, for instance, had located where Beef O'Brady's is now, the strip center across from Wal-Mart, they would have outdoor seating where they can service their customers sitting outside the same as the ones sitting inside. They would not have to ask special permission or have organized opposition against them for doing so. They are a family oriented business that likes the environment and overall good feeling that doing business in the Uptown area gives them, so they chose to be here.

The architecture of traditional downtown business districts, here or elsewhere, is really where the problems lie. The storefronts run all the way to the sidewalk leaving no private property for a courtyard between the City owned sidewalk and their front doors. This somewhat hinders their business which is why our City Council widely passed the ordinance to allow outdoor tables and seating in front of their restaurants last year. This will give them the same advantages in an Uptown location as they would have elsewhere in our City and it has worked great. On a Spring or Summer evening, the tables are full of patrons who want to sit outside, enjoy the fresh air, trees, plants and flowers that make our Uptown beautiful. There have been no problems at all with unruly behavior or trash as a result of this. However, they have had complaints from customers who wanted to enjoy a glass of wine or beer with their meal and were told that they would have to sit inside, four feet away from that

service. This is simply unfair and penalizes our Uptown restaurants who have lost some customers because of this.

No one up here speaking today or anyone sitting in this assembly or any one of the hundreds of people who have signed petitions in favor of Council passing this Ordinance is promoting or encouraging the consumption of alcohol. Many don't drink at all, and some do enjoy an occasional glass of wine or beer at dinner because they like the taste and ambiance of it. The reason all of these good people support this is simply because it's just a fair thing to do. It will give the Uptown restaurant owners, who could've locate elsewhere but chose Uptown to call home, the same business advantages as other areas of our City. If they prosper, we all prosper, and Uptown continues to grow to become what we all know it will, the ultimate City Center for Greenwood and our surround counties.

Our restaurants have been serving alcohol inside for many years now and there have been no problems. Allowing them to serve at tables directly outside their restaurants will not cause problems, either. One of the biggest concerns from this ordinance was that outside consumption would hinder the family atmosphere and expose our children to seeing alcohol being consumed in our Uptown area. I have two children; a little girl, Shelby, who is five and my son, Justin, who is seven. If I thought for one second that seeing someone sitting at a table drinking a glass of wine could do them harm, I would be just as opposed to this as I am in support of it. None of us here can go to any restaurant in town that serves alcohol with our children and not run the risk of someone at a table two feet away from us drinking some form of alcohol. I'm not saying that it's right or wrong. It's a personal decision for every individual. Drinking is not a sin, getting drunk is where the sin part comes in. It is up to me and you, as responsible parents, to teach our children that alcohol abuse and misuse is wrong and will not be tolerated. We cannot hide them from it. In today's society they are exposed to a lot of things in which they had to be taught right from wrong.

As I said before, there have been no problems as a result of our restaurants serving alcohol and the

previously passed outdoor seating ordinance. Everyone in this room can rest assured that the Uptown business owners and our local police will not tolerate any problems in the future either.

If someone is caught taking their drink down the street, in the parking lot or anywhere other than at the table in front of the restaurant, they will be charged with an open container violation. When this new ordinance hopefully passes, other merchants, restaurant owners and I will be the first to stop a potential problem from arising as a result of this passage.

We want our and your Uptown to economically grow and prosper for ourselves and our future generations. The passage of this ordinance should not and will not hinder that vision. The overwhelming majority of Uptown business owners, along with thousands of people in our community, support this passage. The Uptown Development Board supports it, the Partnership Alliance supports it, as do many other organizations. Those of you in opposition of this ordinance, please think about the things I have spoken of today and reconsider your positions.

Council, I know you do not take this matter lightly and you are wise to study all sides of this issue. Please remember this is as purely a matter of economics, nothing more and nothing less. Thank you."

RAUCH WISE

"I'm Rauch Wise of 356 Plantation Drive, Greenwood, South Carolina. I own the building located at 305 Main Street located on the Square in Greenwood. Without a doubt, I think those who oppose the ordinance did so on moral grounds that they oppose the consumption of alcohol. That's their prerogative and right. I'll be the first one to defend their right to oppose it on that grounds, but this vote should not be on the grounds of moral opposition of alcohol. It should be on the grounds of it being something that will benefit downtown Greenwood.

As a property owner in downtown Greenwood, I would not urge anything that I sincerely believe, or even remotely believe, would hurt my property values. Without a doubt, the more traffic that we can generate in downtown Greenwood the more my property

value will go up. I think this ordinance will promote that type of downtown atmosphere because I've seen it in other towns. If you go to Greenville in the afternoons, with the sidewalk cafés and the people walking the Square, it's really an inspiring event.

Several years ago we started the blues and barbecue festival here in Greenwood which I've become a big supporter of. I think it's one of the greatest events we have. Last year, we were very fortunate to get the South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers to bring a seminar here in conjunction with the blues and barbecue weekend and we're coming back again this year. Last year was one of the best seminars we've ever had, as far as attendance concerned. I truly believe that, if we can pass this ordinance, it'll help build this seminar into something that will hopefully be a yearly event in conjunction with the blues and barbecue festival.

I think just allowing people to sit outside and having a good drink of their choice would really help. People are not going to drink any more outside than inside. The drink that harms somebody inside is going to harm somebody outside so whether or not people are going to drink more is not the issue.

The question was asked about what message are our children getting. Well, I grew up in a home where my parents drank. The message I got from watching my parents drink as a youngster was that it was not a forbidden fruit. Quite literally, my father would let me sample his beer and, as a result of that, I would like to think that I'm a more responsible drinker today. If I had been brought up from age five or six to think of it as a forbidden fruit and something you can't touch, we all know how people over react to that when you become 21 years of age. I think the message that we would be sending to our children when they see adults drink responsibly is that drinking responsibly is the thing to do. That is an important message to send.

We have a Live after Five event on Thursday afternoon. It's on private property so they'll have beer and wine. If you go to those events, you'll see a mixture of people and children having a good time. You'll see adults drinking responsibly and children having a good time dancing

to the band or whatever they're doing. I always believe that children who have good memories, as a child growing up, to be better adults. They also see responsible drinking, not people who are getting drunk, misbehaving and acting up, but what adults are supposed to do.

I think this ordinance will be very good for Greenwood. I think it'll help promote downtown Greenwood and enhance the property values. I'll be the first to tell you that, if this ordinance is passed and I come to work in the mornings to find litter and clutter in front of my office, I'll be the first to come back to this Council at some later date and say that it didn't work. I really believe in what we've seen so far with the little experiments we had with drinking in the private areas of downtown. I think it'll be an economic boost for Greenwood. Thank you."

ANN CRAIG

"Mr. Mayor and City Council, I'm Ann Craig of 203 Gatewood Drive. The Board of Directors of the Arts Council of Greenwood County has voted to approve the ordinance allowing the consumption of alcohol on City sidewalks. We feel this development will allow for future development of outdoor restaurants in the Uptown area. A variety of activities and choices will enhance the revitalization that we currently see underway in the Uptown.

Our community has so many positive initiatives such as the opening of the Arts Center at the Federal Building, most importantly. The renovated theatre will open later this year and will offer an exciting new venue for this area. With the influx of local residents and visitors to the theater, museum and Federal Building, our Uptown will thrive anew. Enhanced economic development in the Uptown is essential to compliment the existing structures in place. We ask for support of the ordinance."

RUSSEL W.
RITSON

"Mr. Mayor and Members of Council, I'm Russ Ritson of 124 Highland Drive. I was asked to read a statement from the owners of the Inn on the Square, who cannot be here tonight, of their wish to convey to Council their support for the proposed ordinance. While the Inn itself would not pursue it's own opportunity for sidewalk dining and alcohol consumption and would therefore not benefit directly from this initiative, it would certainly benefit from the City's decision to allow for this. We are convinced that this will generate additional

traffic to this unique Uptown environment and help create a more attractive location that would offer a part of ongoing efforts to bring visitors to the Uptown Greenwood area. The presence of people outdoors, especially after business hours, is a universally inviting and comforting sign.

We wholly support this initiative and the positive impact it will have on our business in Uptown Greenwood, in general. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you."

JON HOLLOWAY

"I'm Jon Holloway of 225 Grace Street. Mr. Mayor and Members of Council, thank you for allowing everyone to speak. I'm here to speak in favor of the ordinance allowing alcohol to be served at outdoor locations in the Uptown Business District. As a property and business owner in the area, I believe the ordinance will promote the general economic development of the Uptown Business District that will benefit all of the businesses located here by encouraging people to visit, dine, and enjoy the esthetic beauty of Greenwood.

While I respect other people's views in this matter, I do not believe that allowing beer and wine to be served in limited areas around restaurants poses as a problem. It is limited to the outdoor café areas where food is served and the license is permitted by the City and therefore regulated. The ordinance to be is well written and is limited in scope.

I would just like to say on a personal note, as everyone has already said here tonight, we all want what is best for Greenwood. I have a young family and I love Greenwood. In the past, I've had a problem at my business where I thought something was not good for the community and Chief Brooks was so helpful in dealing with that situation. I have the utmost faith in the police if anything should ever happen downtown, such as public drunkenness. I think having a beer or wine, if you choose to do so, with your family out in the open should be a choice that we all should be able to make.

There are some wonderful life stories and, for me personally, I could simply mention that a member of my family was paralyzed by a drunk driver. I never ever for one second placed the blame on alcohol.

That same individual in my family also taught all of us to be respectful and responsible in our actions, no matter what they were, because actions have consequences.

This ordinance is written to be very limited and it serves a purpose.

I really hope that you would consider it tonight to vote in favor of this ordinance. Thank you."

TONY WIDEMAN

"Hey guys. I'm Tony Wideman, the owner of T. W. Boons. I guess I would be one of the people that have the most at stake here, for the short term anyway. I'm a father of four and my wife and I are fixing to open our second business in downtown.

What I really would like to convey is that my customers, or my guests, that want to go outside and have a beer or wine are not hooligans or rowdy people. It may be a gentleman and his wife enjoying a Spring day. I just appreciate it if y'all take that into consideration."

LORI HAJOST

"Mr. Mayor and City Council, I'm Lori Hajost of 113 Planters Court in the County. I'm here today to speak as a resident and the Chairman of the Partnership. I know our Board is behind us, but I do want to speak just as myself because we already heard how they are in this position.

I've been a resident of Greenwood for a long time. I've seen Uptown come up and go down and I think we're coming back up again. We've already addressed the arts and cultural things to do with the Arts Center at the Federal Building, the Museum, the Community Theatre, and the New County Library. Soon, we'll have a visitor's and tourist center in Uptown. All of these attractions will bring residents and visitors to our Uptown area. Many of the same folks will want their choice in restaurant menus and beverage selections. We have to consider dining choices for these folks bringing much needed revenue to our area. Having a choice to dine outside, along with the beverage of their liking, is an attraction in itself.

Again, I mentioned it is a choice. Those who don't want to partake, need not. It's that simple. It's time to take another step in our quality of life in Greenwood to make us the number one place in America. I thank y'all."

TAYLOR WILSON

"Mr. Mayor and City Council, I'm Taylor Wilson of 202 West Durst Avenue. I'm speaking for the City of Greenwood ordinance because I have a stake in it. I run my father's store and I need more business Uptown so that he can pay me more money. I don't know; that's like getting blood from a turnip, so never mind.

This vote is about the growth and economic development of Uptown Greenwood. If you come here and support us in your hearts, then open your hearts and minds to the prosperity of this gem of a community that we have. If we can create more spaces like Thayer's, FrankGlen's, T.W. Boons, Uptown Bath and Kitchen and the Arts Council, then we can bring this prosperity to Uptown. By bringing more shoppers we're gonna grow to the best that Greenwood could be.

This ordinance is about broadening our horizons and trusting that this vote is for the good of Uptown Greenwood. As the few dollars that people kept bringing up, 'Oh, we're gonna hang our morals of this society for a few dollars,' a few dollars from a family run business is a lot. You break one glass in Thayer's and, 'Oh, there goes a few dollars.' We need something to replace those few dollars. When they go up on gas and electricity, that's just a few dollars. Instead of going to Wal-Mart and buying a \$9 pitcher and \$12 wrapping paper then go home cursing and spitting, you can come Uptown and spend just a few dollars in a nice shop with somebody that care and really want to help you. It's gonna help Uptown Greenwood, so yes, those few dollars mean a lot to Uptown Greenwood.

We have struggled over the years. We've gone up and down just like all the merchants here have told you. We need and value our customers. We need the people that oppose this and are for this to shop and support local Greenwood. We are the local people of Greenwood that pay taxes. We want what's best for Greenwood and for it to grow.

Our City is no longer about Greenwoodians. We have prospered blessedly into a community of wonderful residents from across the country and even across the ocean. These people are semi retired, retired and some are still working. They are well traveled and, upon reaching Greenwood, have decided that this is where they'll build their home, raise their

children, and entertain their grandchildren. They like this community. I often hear a few of them who shop in my store say, 'Oh, it'd be so nice to have outdoor dining in Uptown.' They want more choices. We got great choices, but they want more choices outside as well as inside.

We have wonderfully wide sidewalks. If you're Uptown you'll know how wonderfully wide they are. There is plenty of room for a couple of tables here, so it works for everybody. This ordinance will allow the forward progress of the City Center Plan. If you're not familiar with it, you really need to. Jeff has put a lot of work into it. I bucked him on a couple of issues, and I'll probably do a few more, but it is a fabulous plan that will lead to a lot of wonderful things for this area.

When talking about supporting your children, if this City Center Plan goes through, it will definitely be something your children will be proud to take advantage of. The moral-like areas that we have cause more residents to congregate in this location. This will lead to more purchases and exposure to what our wonderful Uptown has to offer in the form of business purchases and restaurants. Let me state that if any of you have not shopped Uptown or eaten in one of our fine restaurants, then you are truly doing yourself an injustice. We have a wide variety and everybody that owns a business in Uptown is glad to help you with just about anything. We will bend over backwards for you and do anything to help you all.

We have a wonderful Live after Five concerts at the Countybank Plaza. They do serve alcohol and other drinks and sometimes food. The children get up and dance and people are sitting in their lounge chairs. Some people are reading books and others are playing their DVDs. It's just a nice outdoor experience and it helps the community grow when you can put people together with different moral values. They see that each other is the same in the eyes of God.

We have prospered to this extent because of our regular customers. For those of you who do support our businesses Uptown, we're forever grateful. It's not enough to say that it's a component to building our Uptown, but it is a stepping stone for an adult society to be allowed to enjoy the same benefits outside as they are allowed inside. It's not all over the sidewalk, just a few spaces in

front of each restaurant. I like Pastor Curt's statement about everyone in Greenwood coming Uptown and gracing our sidewalks. That is a dream of mine. We have great, wide sidewalks and there is a lot of space for walkers, shoppers and diners. This plan has nothing to do with festival patrons walking around drinking everywhere. Nothing. That is not what this is about.

This is about our restaurants, which our local merchants here support, and wanting them to grow.

We have wonderful shops and I think that, if you came here, you will see what a great place Uptown Greenwood is. If you can truly say that you've never shopped Uptown on a regular basis, please come and see us because we really have some neat places Uptown. Our restaurants offer local cuisine that is not found in these chains, so come and experience them. I've never liked sushi before because I'm not a big fan of raw fish, but they'll put fried shrimp in it (imagine that!) and call it sushi anyway. Broaden your horizons; it's really great.

If we allow these cafes to serve eating patrons a glass of wine while enjoying dinner or lunch, it won't stop alcoholism. That requires the will of the alcoholic and God help them because they need all the help they can get. But that's not gonna stop it. Many residents moving into this area are non-local, but they're gonna be locals. This will be something that will appeal to them.

I'd just like to say, on behalf of all the merchants Uptown and the people that have signed my petitions, I invite all the City Council Members whom I've never seen in my store to please come Uptown and see what I have to offer. We really have a lot to offer and we do value everybody. I have a lady that actually runs my business for me that does not drink. She said, 'Well, Taylor, I'll be glad to sit outside at a table with you while you have a glass of wine.' There are people that would enjoy it and do it responsibly. We would love to see everybody who hasn't been Uptown shopping and eating to bring yourselves Uptown because we got a good thing."

FRANKIE
CAUGHMAN

"How are y'all? I'm Frankie Caughman of 109z Montclair Drive; one of the co-owners of FrankGlen's (Restaurant). The Glen part is in the

back because he's too shy to get up and talk.

I'd just like to say that we're wanting this to go into effect because it will help us as a business. I would not ever put up with any hoopla of going out in the street. The police officers are really good. I've had to call them for things before, but not necessarily for anything to do with that. I had somebody try to steal a refrigerator from off the back deck.

They came within just a few minutes, so I would call them quickly if we needed them for something of that effect.

We have lots of customers; some do drink and some don't. Since we've been opened, we've never had a problem, period. As far as alcoholism, my dad was killed by a drunk driver when I was six years old, so I've grown up without a father. I don't believe in abusing it, and I'm not putting up with somebody that's abusing it in my restaurant. We just won't do it. I'd appreciate it if y'all would really consider going with it because I think it would help us.

We need all the help we can get. As Taylor just said, we have great days and awful days. As far as being Uptown, we chose the Uptown area because we love it. It's a gorgeous area and I think, once the theater finished, it'll make a big difference as far as the Uptown area is concerned. I just think this will add to it and make it a lot better for tourists and everything else that would be coming in.

I would appreciate it if you just consider it. Thank y'all very much."

BRANDON MCNEELY

"My name is Brandon McNeely of One Augusta Street in Greenville, South Carolina. I was asked to come by a friend of mine, Rick Patton, who owns Beef O'Brady's. I'm the owner of the Saffron Sidewalk Café in Greenville and we've been approached by several landowners to move into the Uptown area. Our restaurant is set around food with the consumption of alcohol. It's not the majority of it, but it does add to the business.

Let me briefly speak on the economic impact. Alcohol, beer and wine have directly contributed \$7,400 to the City of Greenville. Other restaurants like Smoke on the Water, which has a

large sized patio, contributed \$15,000. Sobe's, which is one of the oldest restaurants in Uptown Greenville, is over \$34,000. Alcohol adds to the ambiance to the restaurant. It's not something that's used like Harley Week in Daytona or Myrtle Beach.

I've heard some things from people who are worried about those getting rude and walking out onto the street. We've not had one issue with any of that happening in the 2½ years of opening up.

If you give people an opportunity to self govern themselves, most will. You will have a few that will not, absolutely. For the most part, good natured people will self govern themselves. Our average person that comes into the restaurant is aged 25 to 40 and upper-middle classed. All they want to do is to enjoy a meal with their family, kids included, and sometimes they'd like to have a glass of wine or beverage of their choice.

Taking a note from the City of Greenville, they have a regulation that will not allow any bars to open in the downtown area. I'm all for that because you do not want to increase the chances of anything happening. The City of Greenville has done a great job of regulating new businesses coming in. They have to make sure that the businesses are concentrating on food and that's the way it should be.

Greenville is not Sodom and Gomorrah. If you look at some of the revitalization in any downtown area, take Greenville as a prime example, it is a thriving City that has embraced the people and residents around it. It has also become international and people enjoy walking around there.

I've heard a lot of merchants, who do not own restaurants, speaking in favor of this. Restaurants are the life blood of the community because it increases foot traffic. We can see anywhere to 200 to 300 people a day in our café. We happen to be in a shopping center with other shops. If restaurants were not there, their foot traffic would substantially dwindle down. I just ask that you vote for it. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"I think that's the last one in favor of so we will now close the public hearing. I just want to thank everyone for participating. This item will be first

under New Business. We'll give Council Members some time to think on this while we go through a few items under Unfinished Business."

CONSIDER

Ordinance No. 06-015 Amending the City of Greenwood's Official Zoning Map (Ordinance No. 04-020) by Rezoning Property (Approximately 0.42 Acres) Located at 101 West Durst Avenue and 409 Grace Street from R4 (Residential - Medium Density) to NC (Neighborhood Commercial).

Under unfinished business, Mayor Nicholson read the first item and asked for a motion.

A motion was made by Barbara Turnburke, seconded by Niki Hutto.

"Are there any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

(2nd reading)

CONSIDER

Ordinance No. 06-016 Amending the City of Greenwood's Official Zoning Map (Ordinance No. 04-020) by Rezoning

Mayor Nicholson read the second item and asked, "Mr. Brown, did you speak to the owner of that property?"

Property Located at 311 Mineral Avenue from R10 (Residential - High Density) to GC (General Commercial).

(2nd reading)

STEVEN BROWN

"We haven't received anything from him that we feel comfortable with. We ask that you postpone it until next month."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. I know there were some questions relating to that. Do I have a motion that this be postponed?"

A motion postpone was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Betty Boles.

"All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the third item and asked for a motion.

Ordinance No. 06-017 Amending the City of Greenwood's Official Zoning Map (Ordinance No. 04-020) by Rezoning Properties Approximately 0.18 Acres) Located at 333, 317,, 325, 331, 337, 339, and 343 West Cambridge Avenue from R4 (Residential-

A motion was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Herbert Vaughn.

"Are there any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

Medium Density)
to OPI (Office,
Professional,
and
Institutional).

(2nd reading)

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the fourth item and asked for a motion.

Ordinance No.
06-018 Amending
the City of
Greenwood's
Official Zoning
Map (Ordinance
No. 04-020) by
Rezoning
Property
(Approximately
0.22 acres)
Located at 1020
Reynolds Avenue
from RM7
(Residential-
High Density-
Manufactured
Homes) to GC
(General
Commercial).

A motion was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Linda Edwards.

"Are there any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

(2nd reading)

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the fifth item and asked for a motion.

Ordinance No.
06-019 Amending
the City of
Greenwood's
Official Zoning
Map (Ordinance
No. 04-020) by
Rezoning
Property
(Approximately
4.73 Acres)

A motion was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Niki Hutto.

"Are there any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

Located at 408
and 418 West
Alexander
Avenue from R4
(Residential -
Medium Density)
to OPI (Office,
Professional
and
Institutional).

- attach -

(2nd reading)

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the sixth item and asked for a motion.

Ordinance No.
06-020 Amending
Ordinance 03-
010, Zoning
Ordinance,
Chapter 3,
Article 3,
Commercial
District
Regulations,
Section 3.1.3,
Zoning District
Use Matrix and
Section
3.3.4.1.,
Additional Uses
Permitted in
OPI (Office,
Professional,
and
Institutional).

A motion was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Betty Boles.

"Are there any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach-

(2nd reading)

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the seventh item and asked for a motion.

Ordinance No.
06-021 Amending
Ordinance 03-
010, Zoning
Ordinance,
Chapter 3,
Article 3,
Commercial
District
Regulations,
Section 3.1.3,
Zoning District
Use Matrix, and
Section
3.3.4.2.,
Additional
Conditional
Uses Permitted
in GC (General
Commercial).

Motion was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Niki Hutto.

"Are there any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

(2nd reading)

CONSIDER

Under new business, Mayor Nicholson read the first item and said, "Mr. Brown made a statement about this ordinance prior to the Public Hearing. This is the first reading. Do I have a motion?"

Amending
Ordinance 04-
019, Permitting
Outdoor Cafes
within the
Greater
Greenwood
Square to Serve

Motion to approve the ordinance with a six month trial run to review the results was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Barbara Turnburke.

Beer and Wine
to Seated
Patrons on City
Sidewalks and
Public
Property.

"Now, are there any questions or discussion?"

(1st reading)

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor, I assume that sometime before second reading you are going to determine what the six month effective and termination dates will be."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Yes. Now, we must have a second reading. Am I correct?"

STEVEN BROWN

"Second reading will be in June. You may want July 1st as an effective date and December 31st as your termination."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. Ms. Hutto, is that okay if it passes second reading?"

NIKI HUTTO

"Yes."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. We have a motion and a second. Are there any further discussion?"

LINDA EDWARDS

"I have a question. Who's going to monitor this situation?"

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"I'd guess the business owners, Police Department and Uptown Development will handle any complaints."

LINDA EDWARDS

"Well, I have to make my stand. I did it one time before. I don't have anything against anybody personally. If you drink, that's your business. But still there have been questions I have asked that have not been answered to my satisfaction. Now, I've listened to both sides, pro and con, but still nobody has answered for me who monitors this situation. We have a law that says you don't drink and drive, but yet we'll go ahead and do this. You haven't given me a satisfactory answer. Either way, everybody will individually vote like they want. I just want to let you know where I stand. This is where I stood in 2004 and this is where I stand tonight on the same issue.

I'm not condemning anybody for drinking but, when I have unanswered questions that are still not being answered, I can't sit here and say that I wholeheartedly agree with this ordinance. Don't

tell me that there is such a thing as sociable drinking because there isn't. It starts out sociable but it doesn't usually end up sociable.

Like I said in the beginning, I'm not condemning anybody. That's my personal stand, and questions are not being answered. I asked, 'What do we expect our Police Department to do?' Drinking is drinking, it doesn't matter what the conditions are. I can't help what Greenville, Anderson or Augusta do because I don't live in those places.

I live in Greenwood. We say that we're going to do things fairly and equally for everybody concerned, but when the problem arises, will it be done fairly? Will it be done equally? Drinking is drinking. That's the way I feel about it."

JOHNNY WILLIAMS

"Well, I disagree with it because it's on a public street which belongs to everybody that pays taxes. I agree with the guy that suggested to let the public vote on it in November as to whether they want it or not. I don't feel we should allow drinking on public streets. We're trying to stop drinking and drug use and here we are legalizing it. I'm voting against it."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Are there any other discussion? We have a motion and a second for a six month trial basis. All in favor raise your right hand. Opposed? The motion passed 5-2."

Mayor Nicholson, Niki Hutto, Betty Boles, Herbert Vaughn, and Barbara Turnburke voted in favor of the ordinance. Linda Edwards and Johnny Williams voted against.

Motion passed.

- attach -

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the second item and recognized the City Manager.

Acceptance of
Deed to
Palmetto Court.

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor and City Council, Palmetto Court is located within an apartment complex off of Milwee. For more years than I really know, the City has maintained Palmetto Court. After some recent surveying in that area, we determined that we did not have a deed to Palmetto Court. I talked with the owners who are the Hall Brothers (Richard, Gary, and Dr. Charlie Hall) and they have agreed to give us the deed. We've always maintained it but just never had a legal deed. I would recommend that we go ahead and accept this deed and place it on record as the City owning that street."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. I have a recommendation coming from the City Manager concerning the deed to Palmetto Court. Do I have a motion?"

Motion was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Barbara Turnburke.

"Are there any questions or discussion?"

LINDA EDWARDS

"Is that coming off of Milwee?"

STEVEN BROWN

"Yes, ma'am."

LINDA EDWARDS

"Okay."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Are there any more questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand? So moved."

Motions passed unanimously.

- attach -

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the third item and recognized the City Manager.

Reappoint Ted
Wyndham as City
of Greenwood
Municipal Court
Senior Judge.

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor and City Council, under the TERI Program (Teachers and Employees Retirement Incentive) which is offered to State retirees, an individual can

choose to go on that program. To maintain the City's right to determine who is rehired and who isn't, we require anyone who is terminating their TERI Program to actually resign. Then they must be reemployed to come back and work for the City.

Judge Wyndham is terminating his TERI. To follow the same process with other employees, we'll be asking him to resign and then to be reemployed. We're asking you to consider reemploying Judge Wyndham as the Senior Judge. I would certainly recommend you to do so. It's a formality, but we need to have it in place.

To be honest with you, there may be some employees who were on TERI that we do not want to reemploy so, everyone who'll be coming off of it, we must ask them to resign."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. Do I have a motion that we reappoint Mr. Wyndham as Senior City Judge?"

Motion was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Barbara Turnburke.

"All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the third item and recognized the City Manager.

An Ordinance
Authorizing the
City Manager
and City Clerk
to Execute a
Quit Claim Deed
Conveying
Property off
Sample Road to
the
Commissioners
of Public Works
of the City of

Greenwood.

(1st reading)

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor and City Council, you have seen advertisements in the paper where the Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Greenwood has advertised surplus properties for sale. They have identified a number of surplus properties and asked for people to place bids on them. There is one such property off of Sample Road that has been surveyed and identified as Parcel B on the plat. They want to sell that property but the title or deed was in the name of the City of Greenwood.

In order to give a good, clear deed to that property, we have been requested that you approve a Quitclaim Deed stating that any interest the City would have on that property will be given to the Commissioners of Public Works. It's not anything that you haven't done in the past."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Alright. Do I have a motion?"

Motion was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Betty Boles.

"Is there any discussion?"

LINDA EDWARDS

"Where is it on Sample Road?"

STEVEN BROWN

"If you start off of Durst and go towards Laurel on Sample Road, there's a dedicated easement near the creek bed under the bridge. The CPW has some property that they're maintaining ownership because there's an electrical substation, but they are selling the property behind it. It may have been an old wastewater treatment plant."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. Are there any other questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVE

Mayor Nicholson read the last item and recognized the City Manager.

Information
from the City
Manager
Regarding
Health and
Dental
Insurance Plan
Renewal.

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor and City Council, I really don't have time tonight nor do I think you are able to sit through as long as this will take.

We will probably need to have a special meeting to deal with this. Last year, a decision was made to change insurance companies. For 27+ years, we have been with the Local Government Assurance Group which was a group of municipalities who had formed their own insurance company, but we chose to go with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. You may remember that I had great concerns about them not exceeding an increase for the second year. I tried my best to get them to say, 'We will agree not to increase your second year rate by 10%.' Well, I'm here to tell you tonight that their first proposal was a 41% increase. After negotiations, they offered 21%.

I have some recommendations on how we can deal with that, but it's going to take some time for me to get information to do some comparisons of where we are today. We must look at what their 21% means to the City and the employees and then look at what our options would be to deal with that. I think we have some possibilities that could soften the blow to the employees that have family, employee/spouse and employee/child coverage. I'm also concerned about the blow to the City because if you implement a 21% increase, that's going to cost the City \$150,000."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"What about work session?"

STEVEN BROWN

"Well, you can do that and I'll be willing to do whatever, but we only have six to eight weeks to make some decisions. If I could get you to meet quicker than that, then I can get some direction from you and start talking with these folks. I need to know what your direction is to give me some guidance. One of the things that I'm looking at is

possibly asking Blue Cross to extend our present contract for three months to give us a chance to change over to something else that I think may be worth while. I need to explain that to you before I start talking to them. You may say, 'Well, why haven't you brought it to us before now?' We've only received this information in the last two weeks.

I don't think we ought to bid our services out because I think we do have some options. We can change some of our coverage to reduce the impact of that 21%. We also have the option of applying to the State Health Plan. I have some information on that I'd like to show you.

I promise you we won't put anything else on there but, if we don't have the opportunity to show it to you, it'll be difficult for me to move. This is critical."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Steve, can we do it on the 22nd? Betty will be out of town but can meet with you individually while the rest of us can meet with you on the 22nd."

STEVEN BROWN

"Sure. The 22nd will be a week from today. We'll just deal with this one issue and set it up as a special meeting in case you need to take some type of action."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. Are there any comments from City Council members? Is there anything else from the City Manager?"

STEVEN BROWN

"No, sir."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay, do I have a motion that we adjourn? Thank you everyone. The meeting is adjourned."

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk and Treasurer