

GREENWOOD CITY COUNCIL

August 16, 2004 - 5:35 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

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PRESENT

Mayor Floyd Nicholson; Council Members: Niki Hutto, Linda Edwards, Herbert Vaughn, Johnny Williams, and Barbara Turnburke; City Manager; Assistant City Manager; City Clerk; City Attorney; Phil Lindler; Mike Hatfield of WCRS, and Wallace McBride from the Index-Journal.

ABSENT

Council Member: Betty Boles

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting in the Municipal Courtroom was called to order by Mayor Nicholson at 5:35 p.m., and he welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Reverend David Patterson of South Main Baptist Church gave the invocation.

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STATEMENT AND  
QUORUM

The Mayor gave 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."

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

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ORDINANCE

Permitting  
Outdoor Cafes  
within the  
Great Greenwood  
Square.

Mayor Nicholson said, "First on the agenda tonight, we have five public hearings. The format we employ in the public hearing is, if there are individuals who would like 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 not more than four or five minutes."

Mayor Nicholson read the first item and asked, "Is there anyone here to speak in favor of this

ordinance?"

TAYLOR WILSON

"My name is Taylor Wilson and I have been born and raised in Greenwood. I am the manager of Thayer's Gift Shop Uptown, and I have been at Thayer's for 14 years. I am supporting this ordinance as an Uptown merchant, for the growth of businesses Uptown, and to be able to offer another level of entertainment. It's not that we would force it on anyone that didn't want to (drink). It wouldn't be visible, but in a cup. It gives the people that would like to partake of an alcoholic beverage while they're listening to a jazz concert, or eating some barbeque, the opportunity to do that. It also gives the businesses Uptown that do serve alcohol a little bit more of an edge to compete with the businesses out on the By-Pass.

It's purely for entertainment, not for forcing anyone to drink. Nobody is gonna make anybody drink that doesn't want to drink. It has proven to really help grow the uptown area. How many people have been to jazz festivals in Greenville, Anderson, Simpsonville, or Mauldin where they serve cocktails, Cokes, and food? They're wonderful functions and, 99.9 times out of 100, nobody gets out of hand. I am proud to say that Greenwood has a wonderful Police Department. If someone felt threatened or upset in any way, it could be handled by one of Greenwood's finest.

There are a lot of places in this town that serve alcohol. I'd bet a number of people here eat there while other people might be drinking, shop in Wal-Mart where they sell it, or watching a TV commercial that's showing it. I think if people want to be responsible adults, then they ought to have the opportunity if they see fit. I think it would help bring younger business people Uptown that are located in these factories and plants. It would be good exposure for the area if given the opportunity.

I know a lot of my friends and people that I'm associated with at 38. When we want to go out to dinner, we want to go somewhere, on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday night where we can go and have a glass of wine with dinner if we want to. Now, I do frequent places like the Dixie, McDonald's, or Little Pigs where they don't serve (alcohol), but sometimes we like to have that option.

I would never want it to get out of hand. I can

understand anybody that's disagreeing with me, but it will help bring people Uptown. It will help people that are coming Uptown to be exposed to the Uptown Greenwood area. We're talking about all these millions of dollars that they want to put into revitalizing the area where the new Arts Council and the back street area of Maxwell. They got a whole plan that just spent tons of money bringing in a professional organization to revamp this where they'll have more restaurants, shops, and outdoor cafes. It will be imperative for the livelihood of these businesses to survive and grow, and it's important that this be an option that they have.

If somebody has something to say in opposition to that, I'd like to listen to everything that everybody has to say. I've got an open mind about it and I'd like to ask that everybody else have an open mind to where the retail merchants from Uptown are trying to grow. We really need to bring people Uptown; everybody, not just people who don't drink. We need to bring everybody Uptown, if we're going to have a simple business core. We have a beautiful Uptown. We have people that come here from New York and Michigan, that go through Greenwood and see how beautiful the square is. I've got tons of design clients from Savannah Lakes that come to retire there. They would love to have a jazz festival where they can sit outside in their lawn chairs on a fall evening and have a glass of wine, or beer, while they're listening to wonderful jazz. I mean, it would just bring people up here. So, as far as forcing it on anybody, that's not gonna happen, and it never has happened.

I think if anybody was raised right, and they believe that what is right is right for them, that's fine. I'm not forcing my views on you, so don't force your views on me. I think that Uptown is adult enough to handle it. I think the City is definitely prepared to deal with it. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you, Ms. Taylor. Is there anyone else in support of the ordinance?"

WENN OTT

"My name is Winn Ott. I'm the owner and proprietor of Rough House Hotdogs in the Uptown area. I also live in the City limits on Lawton Street.

I want to speak a little bit about this proposal, not as someone directly affected by it. We at Rough House serve rootbeer and Cheerwine, but

nothing harder than that. I have no plans on changing that, so I'm not directly affected. I would like to say, though, is I think that Uptown Greenwood could benefit from this ordinance.

Now, as I understand it, this is an ordinance that allows a restaurant that already has an alcoholic beverage license, to be able to place a few tables in front of, behind, their restaurant, or wherever, and be able to serve some dinner alfresco; that means, 'outside'. I think that's a pretty good idea. When you go to the really nice, touristy uptown areas like Greenville and Charleston, one of the neatest things is to be able to sit outside on a beautiful evening and have a great meal, with or without the wine. I don't know how this ordinance could really have any negative impact. I don't see it.

Now, I've had people come through my neighborhood telling me that my children would suffer if this ordinance was passed, and I just don't see it. I don't see how sipping a Pinot Grigio with my filet mignon with my wife on an evening would be a bad thing. The only drawback I can see to this ordinance, and I don't even think it's that much of a drawback, might be the littering or trash disposal. That is probably more of a concern than the alcohol. But looking at the ordinance here, it says a permit that you issue a special permit that can be revoked if it's abused and honestly I don't see a lot of the restaurants uptown abusing it.

We take a lot of pride in Uptown Greenwood and we take a lot of pride in what it looks like. In fact, we pay a special tax that nobody else in Greenwood pays just so Uptown Greenwood can look the way it does. That's pretty much it. I really see no down side to this. I'd be interested to hear it, but at this point in time, I'm in favor of it. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you. Is there anyone else to speak in favor of this ordinance?"

S A M M Y  
NASROLLAHI

"Good afternoon. My name is Sammy Nasrollahi. I'm the owner of the Rugs of Distinction in Uptown. I do not drink and I do not smoke. I don't care for it.

I want to tell a small story that might be related to this ordinance. When I went to Erskine, President Bell was our President, and we had a dry

campus.

Every year, we had the largest tragedy of losing students because they couldn't drink at Erskine, an ARP Church's school. They would travel to Greenville, Greenwood, and Anderson and every year we had at least one or two deaths coming back to school. So I talked to our President and they started selling beers and stuff at the convenience store in our little town. Again, it didn't bother me if they drink. It didn't bother me if they didn't drink.

If y'all ever went to Greenville's Live After Five, there are thousands of people out there. I know that because a friend of mine has a restaurant on Main Street. If you want to see all the Greenwoodians, you can see them that evening. There are hundreds of them out there from the couples, the very young, the golden ages, and students that go to Lander. You can go to Aiken and see the result of people who are sitting out there and having a good drink with a nice meal, and having a good time at every age.

Again, I don't drink, and I don't see a reason that I have to be against it. I'm a board member at the City, the Theater, and the YMCA since 1978. I'd like to see an improvement in our community, and we're trying our best to do it. This is not going to affect me, or my wife, personally. We don't drink. I'm not against it, but I think it will provide for other people who are interested in doing these things. If you go to Grand Harbor, you'll hardly see anybody from South Carolina. I agree with my good friend, Taylor, that people are moving here from all around. About 40% of my customers are not from this area, so we need to open a door for them also.

Again, I'm Muslim and a member of St. Mark Methodist Church for 15 years. I go to my church pray for my religion and for all of you guys drinking and driving. I hope you'll be responsible enough to do it wherever you do it. I don't think we have to hide it. I'm definitely for it. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you. Is there anyone else to speak in favor of the ordinance?"

BILL WILSON

"My name is Bill Wilson. I spoke some months ago, and I just wanted to echo my appreciation to the

folks who have spoken in favor of it.

I think the one central point, and Sammy, Taylor, and her contemporaries brought it out very well is, when given the choice a number of responsible people choose to go where they can enjoy a glass of wine, beer, or a cocktail. We're not considering cocktails, and that's fine, but they go where they can do it, enjoy it, and be with their friends. They may not come Uptown and they often don't. Even if you have the best entertainment Uptown it's their Friday or Saturday night, and they would like to have a beer, or a glass of wine, and relax. If we didn't allow it to happen, I think we would be saying, 'We know better than you whether or not you should have a drink, and we're going to exclude you from our Uptown activities.' We put too much time, effort, money, and responsible work building Uptown Greenwood into what it is. I think the ordinance, as it is written, is a great first step to give it a test and see if it's gonna work.

My daughter lives in Bernie, Texas which is about 35 miles out of San Antonio, and I was in a little town called Fredericksburg. Fredericksburg is the home of Admiral Nimitz, who was the commander of a naval fleet in the Pacific during the WWII. It's a great historic and shopping town. It has a lot more shops Uptown than we do and I wish we had that atmosphere they have. We went into a restaurant on a Saturday night, and I bought a beer. I do drink. I was an Episcopalian, now I'm an Episcitarian. That means I was an Episcopalian, and now I'm a Presbyterian. Anyway, I bought a beer and the rest of my family were going on up to another shop. While I was waiting in the doorway a fella says, 'You can take that beer next door if you want to.' I said, 'You mean I can walk out on the street with this beer?' He said 'Oh yeah. Look around.' I looked and, sure enough, people had their beer and gone to shop. They walked up the street and their children may be drinking Cokes. It was an extremely welcoming atmosphere that this town has.

Now, I'm not saying I want people coming into my store carrying a long-neck Budweiser, by any means. I'd rather for them to stay outside. What I'm saying is, when it's managed properly, you don't exclude the people who says, 'I'd like to go and listen to a concert, or participate in a barbecue, and have a glass of beer. I think it will improve the image of Uptown, not damage it, if we manage it right. With the last City meeting, I heard some of

the discussed rules and regulations that sounds like it would be managed.

I believe the people of Greenwood who are not coming would say, 'Thank you, City Council, for allowing us to come and enjoy our lifestyle on our City streets, in our Uptown. I believe it would be well worth trying. If it didn't work, you'll have the right to withdraw it. Thank you for your time.'

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you. Is there anyone else to speak in favor of the ordinance? Okay. Is there anyone opposed to the ordinance?"

J. W. LECROY

My name is J. W. Lecroy. I reside at 114 Columbia Street in Greenwood, and I oppose this ordinance. Number one, as they all brought out, a lot of people are moving into Greenwood. Why? Because we don't have this on our main streets. A young man brought up Charleston, who just recently in the paper Charleston banned this years ago. They were thinking about bringing it back because it was a problem. I'm the youth leader at my church and, to me, it's hypocritical for me to stand here and say it's alright to have this glass of wine, and tell my young people its wrong. These young people come Uptown, too. I don't see where it would bring any more income, revenue, or anything else to the merchants of Uptown.

Mr. Wilson and I used to belong to the same civic club, I think year ago, and there's a lot of beer drinking in it. I've never drank, or smoked, but I haven't been a Christian all my life. At some of our meetings, it kind of got out of hand didn't it, Bill? So this is what I'm telling you. How many people are going to come Uptown to drink a glass of wine? How many of you have wine in your homes? Very few, I would think. You're gonna have the wrong image for Greenwood. We aren't Charleston, Greenville, Anderson, or anywhere. We're Greenwood. We got people moving in here by the thousands because this is a quiet, religious, respectable town.

I don't see any need for somebody walking around Uptown with a long neck beer in their hand laughing. Everybody knows that vulgarity goes with drinking. That's the reason I'm opposed to this; because of our young people. We tell them one thing is wrong, and we send them another message when we take them Uptown. It's wrong, and I'm

against it. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON "Thank you."

TAYLOR WILSON "Floyd, excuse me, I wasn't here to hear the whole ordinance. I didn't see where you could walk around and drink beer on the street. I didn't hear that."

MAYOR NICHOLSON "Now, this public hearing has to do with an ordinance permitting outdoor cafes within the Greater Greenwood Square. The greater outdoor café means the placing, locating, or permitting of the placing, or locating of chairs or tables, on the right-of-way, such as sidewalks adjacent to a business licensed to operate as an eating establishment where food and or refreshments are served. So this will be just an establishment that already has a license that's serving food where they can only place chairs and table in front, or behind, their establishment for the consumption of beer and wine there."

TAYLOR WILSON "Not walking around the street drinking?"

MAYOR NICHOLSON "No."

NIKI HUTTO "And they have to be served in a seated position?"

MAYOR NICHOLSON "Yes, they would have to be in a seated position in front of their establishment, not walking around."

TAYLOR WILSON "Like Outback, or anywhere where you sit outside; like LaHacienda?"

MAYOR NICHOLSON "Right."

TAYLOR WILSON "Okay. I just wanted to make sure I understood that. Thank you."

J. W. LECROY "Okay. Back to that. How is it going to be policed? If I take my young grandson that lives with me and I go to one of these establishments, order some wine, go outside, who's gonna say I can't give it to him? Who's going to be there to police it?"

TAYLOR WILSON "The owner of the restaurant should be responsible for that."

J. W. LECROY "You used the right word, 'should'."

TAYLOR WILSON "Well, they don't do that at LaHacienda."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. This is not a discussion. We're just listening."

J. W. LECROY

"One more thing, Mayor. This thing starts when something like this goes against the grain, one step at a time. If you remember when the mini bottle law was passed many years ago, what was the reason? We can have one drink out of a little bottle, and don't have to go to the liquor store to buy a whole pint. This is one of the arguments. Where is it going now? You see it goes one step at a time. Once the restaurants are allowed to be outdoors with this, what comes next? They don't do it all at one time. It's a step by step, and I'm against it. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Is there anyone else opposed?"

R E V E R E N D  
PATTERSON

"Thank you, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, and the Council. I'm Dave Patterson, Pastor of South Main Street Baptist Church. We're a church with about 1000 members, located right in the heart of Greenwood. We certainly have a vested interest to see economic growth and development in this community. I come today on behalf of our congregation. My comments don't reflect all of their comments and beliefs, however they asked me to appear, in light of our recent business meeting, to speak in opposition of the ordinance as it's now written.

I think cafes would be a wonderful thing. I think to see folks eating in the atmosphere would be great, but in light of where our nation has gone, failed moral values, the decline in morals that we've seen, the chipping away gradually of the traditional values that have made our country so great. We believe that this would be a step in the wrong direction. I'm not here to call alcohol the 'demon water', or something like that. I'm just asking you to take a step in the opposite direction. How refreshing it would be to see a community take a stand and say, 'You know, we can have economic growth and development without the inclusion of alcohol at everything.' Why could we not do that?

I have a son that's 15 years old. I heard the comment that Uptown is adult enough. Well, my son just got his permit. He's in that in-between area where he thinks he's adult, but he's not quite there. I want to see values instilled in him that are going to better his life.

I'll be honest with you, I'm 48 and I have failed to see any socially redeeming value in the use of alcohol. People have the right to consume and enjoy it where they will, but to bring it into our streets? We're not denying people that right and privilege they have now, but what is the compelling reason and value to expand its use in the public venue like this? I'll be the first to defend the right of our businesses to grow and expand. I pray for that and I want them to do well. I also know when economics become the sole driving force, the scriptures are very clear; they say the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. We've seen it internationally, in politics, and governments throughout. When that becomes the sole driving force, it overrides some of the more important values in life. I'm just here to suggest there's a better way. I would love to see our Council stand up and say, 'You know what? We want to grow this town. We want it to be right, but we want to make a stand for our young people in the future.' In light of the way the rest of country has been going, I'd like to see a breath of fresh air blow through Greenwood and say, 'We don't need the alcohol here.'

I'd love to see this ordinance amended and eradicate that aspect of it in allowing these cafes and businesses to go forward. Again, I'll tell you our church is trying our best to improve our acre of the town. It's slow going, but we're in the building process. We're trying to improve the looks, so we have a vested interest in the growth and beautification of this City. I just wanted to come today and speak against it as it's now written on behalf of our congregation, and to tell you that we affirm you. We appreciate your leadership, but this is something we would ask you to respectfully refrain from at this point and consider an amendment.

I would close with asking you, what is the definition of that which is truly beneficial? It encompasses many dimensions, and economics can't be the sole driving force. I think our Uptown could expand and do just as well with these cafes without the expansion of alcohol into these public venues. I appreciate your time, very much, and there are others from our church that will speak. I also have presented to you, and Mr. Brown, a list of names from our church who signed a petition in

opposition to this. Thank you very much for your time today."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

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

DAVID LITTLE

"My name is David Little, Director of Missions for the Abbeville Baptist Association. I understand Abbeville represents several counties. Our office is located right here in Greenwood. I speak on behalf of 48 Baptist churches that I represent with over 20,000 Baptists in those churches. Not all of them obviously are affected by this, but most of them come to Greenwood, at some time or another, so I stand and speak against this ordinance as it is now written.

People often say that a good Baptist is always against something. I would say, we are against something when what is being proposed is worth being against. I think this is definitely worth being against because it's just the wrong thing to do. It sends the wrong message to our community, our young folks, and it's not family friendly no matter how you would spin that. It's just not that way. I think any good Baptist would vote against it, and I really think any sorry, lowdown Baptist would vote against it because it's just something that we know is not right. The Bible clearly says that alcohol is like a viper. Nobody messes with a viper because sooner or later it's gonna bite you. That's the way alcohol always is. Any pastor, including my friend Dave here, who has been in the ministry for any length of time has counseled countless people whose lives, families, and marriages have been absolutely destroyed by alcohol. That's the way a viper is. It always comes back to bite.

When I read the City ordinance as it is written, I picked up on a couple of words. One of them was 'atmosphere'. You know, when I moved here, about a year and a half ago, one of the things that appealed to me about Greenwood was the atmosphere. I am the father of four children; two teenagers, an 11 year old, and a three year old. This town is really known far and beyond its borders as being a family-friendly town. Beyond the Biblical mandate that we're given as Christians, there's also the concern that we would have for families and our community. I think whatever gain there might be economically, there would be a greater loss of the community, as its reputation now stands.

You know, one gentleman spoke a moment ago and, in his own words speaking in favor of this ordinance, he used the words, 'first step'. We all know that's exactly what this is. It is the first step to other things. I would desire that the first step that we take would be to make sure that there is no economic demand placed upon our community that overrides our family. The gentleman speaking for it said, 'Now, I don't want them in my store, but it's okay to be outside.' Well, you know, you can't have it both ways. There are plenty of places to drink. Those who are driven to that sort of lifestyle are not being deprived in any way. Many young people come to this community for festivals which, as the flower town, is so many things.

Another word that is used in that ordinance is 'encroachment'. That's the area defined on the sidewalks, wherever, that this drinking would be allowed. I think that's the perfect word to use for it because it is encroachment on the rights of those who choose not to drink, to have to walk around it, see it, listen to it, and be offended by it. Again, the gentleman speaking for it used the words, '...if we managed it right...' That is a big 'IF'. Who's gonna manage it? Who's gonna manage it when it gets bigger and bigger?

On behalf of decent minded folks, I would encourage you to vote against this, or change it, whatever. Please, don't put economic development above protecting our families, the civility, the decency, and the reputation that now exists in Greenwood. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you."

BILL WILSON

"Mr. Mayor, since I'm being used as an example, I'd like to say what I meant. I don't let people come in with Pepsi Cola because I sell furniture and other things. So that's what I meant by that."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. Is there anyone else to speak in opposition?"

GARY GOFORTH

"I'm Gary Goforth, and I live at 597 New Market Street. I, too, would like to voice opposition to this ordinance. I really respect everyone who has addressed this. These are dear friends, and I know they mean well. They're looking for the economic development, but I personally think that the dangers far outweigh the benefits in this ordinance. I think that people ought to have the right to drink alcohol. I personally do not, but I think people have that right to do it. Now, I think we have plenty of establishments in Greenwood that give people the opportunity to drink. In Uptown we got Regans, Uptown Sushi Bar, and the Inn on the Square that offer alcohol and is certainly available to people that want it.

Here's my issues with the ordinance. I think that we're gonna have problems in controlling it. That's already been addressed. I think we're asking a lot because we know when alcohol is involved, problems develop. I can't tell you how many nights I've spent in the emergency room sewing up people that have been in fights, fallen down, and injured themselves. We know that alcohol can be a dangerous substance. I think most people that consume alcohol are very responsible. They take care of it, don't cause problems for others, but there is a minority that does not.

I, too, want to express my concern for the family. I've got three children. They're now off to college and it won't affect me a lot, but I think we have other children that I would've had no problems with them coming to the Uptown area. I got a real problem if there is alcohol in the streets and you got a few disruptive people out there. I think it's gonna hurt economic development, ultimately. We may see a few more sales of alcohol, but ultimately, we're gonna keep people from downtown.

I think that has an impact on liability for City, and possibly those businesses. We don't know when somebody is going to have a problem with alcohol. They may get up and wander out into the street. I think you're gonna have issues to come up that will affect liability. Also, I think there's no real benefit. Look at the Police Department. I think somebody said Greenwood's finest would be able to patrol this, but it comes at a cost. I think they got plenty to do now. We don't need to give them

more to do in patrolling the downtown area.

So I really think that, ultimately, the cost is going to be far greater than the benefit. Thank you so much for letting me voice this."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

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

M A R J O R I E  
CULBERTSON

"My name is Margie Culbertson. I want to speak to you from a view of a mother, but also from a child who grew up with an alcoholic. I know that you're thinking, 'Well, these (people) aren't going to be alcoholics. These are going to be responsible people.' I also work as a teacher assistant in School District 50. I see that the number of responsible drinkers is very small compared to the number of people who abuse it these days. The easier and more plentiful we make it, the bigger that number will get. I know from experience that where there is alcohol involved, there is always a problem. There is plenty of places in Greenwood for people who want to drink.

In First Corinthians 12: 'Everything is permissible for me, but not everything is beneficial.' You know, I'm not saying that people don't have the right to drink. I wish nobody wanted to, but people have that right. It is available in plenty of places for them to go and do that, but not when it involves a family coming out to enjoy our town. I do believe that's why people are coming to Greenwood as well. I don't want my boys to have to experience, even a little part, of what I experienced all my growing up life; to see people drunk, fighting, saying ugly words, getting in their car and leaving. I think it probably won't start out like that, but I would bet my life that it would grow to be that. It will then grow to be in the outdoor festivals where people bring their children and, having to deal with that, is so repulsive to me.

In Galatians 5:13, 'You my brothers are called to be free, but do not use your freedom to indulge in sinful nature rather serve one another in love.' This is such a great country and such a great town, Greenwood. I know that we want it to grow economically, and I do too. Sometimes I want to go out of town shopping, and my husband George says, 'Uh uh! You people ought to shop here and support this town.' You know what? He's right. We need to support this town, but we need to look at how

this town grows and judge morally which way we want it to go.

I want my boys to be able to go Uptown and do whatever they want to do. Pretty soon they'll be bringing their own families Uptown.

There's no place else I would want to live other than Greenwood, or maybe someplace that got a little more snow than we do, but this is a wonderful City. I want us to steer it toward making moral decisions that will keep it like it is. I don't want to live in Greenville, Anderson, or Charleston. I think the people who are making decisions to move here for that very same reason. That's the reason why I'm against it."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

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

JASON GARNER

"Mayor Nicholson and City Council, my name is Jason Garner. I'm the pastor of Restoration Ministries on the south side of town. My concern is more so for our children and teenagers with this ordinance. I think a statement was made where 99.9% of folks will probably be responsible. I have two small children; one at the age of five, and a little girl at the age of three. If I can not be assured that 100% of the people drinking on our streets will be responsible, then I have a responsibility as a parent to take a stand and protect the environment where my children are going to be a part of. Having said that, the staff of our church have adopted a resolution that I would like to submit to the City Council after this meeting, and would like to read to you today.

We as a people of Restoration Ministries and upstanding citizens of Greenwood County and the Municipality of Greenwood hereby resolve the following:

Whereas we are alarmed at the increasing rate at which children run away from home, drop out of school, experiment with drugs and alcohol are becoming involved in violent crimes and suffer the disillusion of their homes by desertion and divorce;

Therefore be it resolved that we strongly emphasize character development among our children, self esteem, drug prevention education, resistance to negative peer pressure, traditional family values, self discipline for achieving goals, and acceptance

of differences in others, and

Be it further resolved that the open sale of alcohol on the streets of our City will render Greenwood events such as the Festival of Flowers our annual parade, and etc, as anti-family gatherings and foster a party environment similar to that of Greenville and Spartanburg where crime arrests, if we study and research, are at a much higher increase than that of Greenwood, and

Be it further resolved that the support of Uptown businesses from the 300+ members and families at Restoration Ministries is directly related to the peaceful family atmosphere that our City has worked for years to create on the Square. Businesses in this area will receive a boost in sales during public events hosted by the City of Greenwood and the support that these businesses receive will be lost by local in the local Christians in the event that alcohol is sold in the open, and

Be it further resolved that if alcohol is sold, whether it be from kiosk, street vendors, or from the restaurants in Greenwood, Restoration Ministries will neither support nor permit our children or teenagers to engage in a social climate that can potentially cause harm to them due to drunkenness, obscene language, etc, which will occur as a result of the excessive consumption of alcohol if permitted in our City during these public events.

"Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

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

CHAD TURNER

"Thanks for the opportunity to speak. My name is Chad Turner and I'm the Associate Pastor at Restoration Ministries in South Greenwood. I'd just like to state real quickly, my wife and I relocated here about eight months ago from Greenville. I was born and raised in Greenville and lived there for 28 years. I heard the one thing all the business owners mentioned is that Greenville has these thousands of people downtown.

That is true, but one thing that kind of crossed my mind is, you're looking at a city with 850,000 people. There are thousands of people there because there are a lot more people there than Greenwood. Not to say if we did cultivate and

allow alcohol sales on our sidewalks and streets that it would increase business in Greenwood. It would, but I can tell you that, as a citizen and registered voter of Greenville, it was not a good thing. You can believe all you want. We would go up every Thursday night to Greenville for 'Downtown Alive' during the summer. I can tell you after about 10 or 11 o'clock, I'm talking just things from litter, junk, and language; it's not a place you take your children.

I think a gentleman mentioned earlier about this being a first step. About 12 years ago, Greenville passed a similar ordinance to this one. Then it became an ordinance to allow vendors and kiosks to set up during events and festivals, which eventually escalated into Greenville being a party city now. I want to say, on behalf of those who do owns businesses, I can understand that you're in a crunch because business is not doing good on the Square. I do want to just encourage the gentleman that sells suits that we have 300+ members and everyone of them has a lamp in their house from Thayars. I bought a suit from your store last year. All of our members purchases and supports your businesses.

If you want to increase business, it's a temptation in a smaller, growing town to try to mimic what works in a bigger city. It's not a good thing, from somebody that's been there. Mail everybody at my church a coupon with 10% off a suit, and I promise you it'll double your income next month. I'm telling you that if you guys are in a predicament where business is going out the westside of town, you've got to increase your business. But there are better ways to do it than by selling alcohol on sidewalks. The thing that strikes me is that there are no cafes that serve food on the sidewalk right now. My wife and I eat at Regans, or Uptown Sushi, once a month. We frequent the restaurants and we have members that work and eat here. There is not even a place to eat outside and I just don't see the push for beer being a solution to increase your economy. There are better ways. You got to be creative to increase business. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you, sir. Is there anyone else to speak in opposition? Okay seeing and hearing none, we will close the first public hearing."

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ORDINANCE

to Annex 2.55  
Acres, More or  
Less, Owned by  
Trinity Baptist  
Church, Located  
off Sweetwater  
Road.

Mayor Nicholson read the second item and asked, "Is there anyone here to speak in favor of this annexation? Is there anyone opposing? Seeing and hearing none, we will close the second public hearing."

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ORDINANCE

Amend Ordinance  
03-010, Zoning  
Ordinance,  
Chapter 6,  
Supplemental  
Regulations,  
Section 6.3.10-  
2, A, B, Signs  
Permitted in  
All Residential  
Districts.

Mayor Nicholson read the third item and asked, "Is there anyone here to speak in favor of amending this ordinance? Is there anyone opposing? Seeing and hearing none, we will close the public hearing."

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REQUEST

By Self  
Regional  
Healthcare to  
Rezone Property  
Located at 303  
Ellenburg  
Avenue from  
RI-1 (Institu-  
tional) to PDD  
(Planned  
Development  
District)

Mayor Nicholson read the fourth item and asked, "Do we have anyone speaking in favor of this request? Is there anyone opposing? Seeing and hearing none, we are going to be closing the public hearing."

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REQUEST

By the City of  
Greenwood to  
R e z o n e  
Approximately  
145 Acres of  
P r o p e r t y  
Located on  
Emerald Road  
from AG-2  
(Agricultural  
District) to R-  
2 (Single  
F a m i l y  
Residential).

Mayor Nicholson read the last item and asked, "If you look on the map you can see that it's located where the new Brewer school is going out on Emerald road. Do we have anyone to speak in favor of this request? Anyone opposing? Seeing and hearing none, we will close the last public hearing. We will now move into the business part of our meeting."

There being no further business, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

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Floyd Nicholson, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk and Treasurer

