

CITY OF BARNESVILLE
PUBLIC HEARING
October 3, 2022

Council met at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 3, 2022, in the Courtroom at 100 Mill Street in Barnesville, Georgia.

Mayor Peter L. Banks called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Councilmember Christopher Hightower opened the meeting with prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Peter L. Banks
Mayor Pro Tem Sammie D. Shropshire, Jr.
Councilmember Christopher Hightower
Councilmember Bill Claxton
Councilmember Joseph Sims
Councilmember Cecil D. McDaniel, Sr.

STAFF PRESENT

City Manager Timothy T. Turner
City Clerk Tammy T. Folson
Chief of Police Craig Cooper

ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL

Mayor Banks stated the purpose of the public hearing was to discuss and receive comments on allowing additional alcohol sales on Sundays.

Councilmember McDaniel asked for a show of hands of those in favor of or opposed to a referendum to let the citizens vote in an election on whether or not they want to allow Sunday sales. Many people were in favor. None present indicated they were opposed.

Mayor Banks called for public comments.

Ms. Melissa Cline asked it be put on the ballot to give the citizens the right to vote.

Mr. Edward Whitelock who resides at 401 Zebulon Street stated he was in favor of a voting referendum on Sunday sales.

Mr. Caleb Anthony with Tailgaters stated it will produce tax dollars for the community and more festivals and things to do. He said he feels Barnesville can still be Barnesville with alcohol sales on Sunday.

Ms. Penny Hudson of Milner stated she feels it will do great here, generate a lot more revenue, and it's really needed.

Ms. Mary Rooks who resides at 650 Forsyth Street stated she feels it would be more convenient and safer to be able to buy locally rather than traveling long distances and keep businesses open.

Ms. Anna Perdichizzi stated it shouldn't matter what day of the week it is as long as you drink responsibly. She said it definitely needs to be put on the ballot to let the people vote and it's about making money.

Ms. Angela Hardy Boatfield who resides at 602 Greenwood Street stated she's in favor of putting it to a vote and would like to have a ceremony to celebrate in an informational and meaningful way.

Mayor Banks stated there would not be a vote tonight, but there will be a vote and decision made at a later time.

Ms. Dorothy Carter who resides at 323 Forsyth Street asked the Council to please poll their constituents, not just the business owners, to see what their opinion is. She added it's not about the money, but it's more of a morale issue and alcoholism is a problem here. She said she's ok with pouring, but not buying in stores.

Councilmember McDaniel noted the Council would not make the decision, but they would put it to a vote for the citizens to decide.

City Manager Turner reported if approved by the Council, a Special Election would be held on March 21, 2023 along with the SPLOST.

Mr. Christopher Deraney of Deraney's Two City Tavern asked why the Council was kicking the can down the road again and not voting tonight. Mayor Banks noted tonight they were just having a public hearing and would be making a decision later, but not tonight.

Ms. Linda Littiken who resides at 716 Holmes Street spoke in favor of Sunday alcohol sales.

Ms. Jane Huguely who resides at 512 Thomaston Street stated it's about freedom and not just money.

Mayor Pro Tem Shropshire, along with Mr. Deraney, commented in 2019, the Council voted the same night.

After no further business, on motion by Councilmember McDaniel and seconded by Councilmember Claxton, Council unanimously adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Attached is a list of those present at the meeting.

Peter L. Banks, Mayor

Tammy T. Folson, City Clerk

Clerk's Notes: There were no special needs required.