

RECAP OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP OF 9-25-12

Council felt it was important to gather information from our Citizens, Police Department and Administration as we consider any changes to our ordinances regarding parking and hours regulating outside alcohol.

Below is a recap of information we got via emails and public comments at our workshop regarding outside hours and parking.

Common theme among pro's and con's, City is definitely moving forward, the Jitney Service is a grand slam.

Concerns Expressed:

- Excessive noise, bands, people and street traffic
- Enforcement of existing ordinances
- Ability to enforce our noise ordinance
- Public behavior – not just from outside bars
- No limits on square footage
- Requirement for the structure around outside bars is not specific enough
- Impact on image of a family town
- Impact on property values

Positives Expressed:

- Ambiance created is great
- Like the option to have a late night drink without having to listen to the bands
- Establishment owners are doing an excellent job controlling their patrons when required
- Town has something for everybody, younger group inside with the bands, older group outside, kids at the amusements and entire families at Excursion Park entertainment
- Some downtown residents state no negative impact
- Police report only 6 complaints this past summer for noise from outside bars

Other:

- Outside got popular with smoking ban inside, started to push patrons outside

Items Currently Under Consideration

- Administration/Solicitor: to look at the following items
 1. Establish a more firm definition of structure required surrounding the outside
 2. Review any physical ways to reducing noise
 3. Determine feasibility and methodology to establish square footage limitations for outside drinking areas
 4. Continue to review with Police Department that they have the proper tools for enforcement.

Next Steps:

1. Copy of document to all that sent correspondence
2. Post on website for all that are interested
3. Continue the discussion on any action that council plans to take at the next council meeting on Oct. 9th
4. Continue to provide updates in city newsletter as we move forward

PARKING ISSUES:

1. Regulation governing parking permits
2. Review hour limits in various parking zones

Discussion on parking meters was that the primary reason we have meters is for turnover.

Consensus was to establish a parking committee to review and recommend to Council any alternatives