

JUNE 26, 2024

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVERNMENT CENTER
ROOM 100

PRESENT Mayor Bo Dorough
Mayor Pro Tem Bob Langstaff, Jr.
Commissioners: Jon Howard, Jalen Johnson, Vilnis Gaines, Chad Warbington,
and Demetrius Young
City Attorney: Nathan Davis
Interim City Mgr. Derrick Brown

Mayor Dorough called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The Legislative Asst. read the call as follows:

There will be a Special Called City Commission meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., in room 120 of the Government Center Building located at 222 Pine Ave. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

- Alcohol License Denial Hearing re: TEJAS Business, Inc., d/b/a Gillionville Grocery, 1603 Gillionville Rd., Albany, GA

Sincerely,

/s/ Derrick Brown
Interim City Manager

/s/ Bo Dorough
BO DOROUGH, MAYOR

/s/ Jon Howard
JON HOWARD, WARD I
CITY COMMISSIONER

/s/ Jalen Johnson
JALEN JOHNSON, WARD II
CITY COMMISSIONER

NOTIFIED VIA EMAIL
VILNIS GAINES, WARD III
CITY COMMISSIONER

/s/Chad Warbington
CHAD WARBINGTON, WARD IV
CITY COMMISSIONER

NOTIFIED VIA EMAIL
BOB LANGSTAFF, JR., WARD V
MAYOR PRO TEM

NOTIFIED VIA EMAIL
DEMETRIUS YOUNG, WARD VI
CITY COMMISSIONER

City Attorney Michael Custer stated that this is an alcohol license denial hearing, which was scheduled for April, but was tabled in May and is being heard tonight. She explained that it was denied based on proximity requirements; however, the ordinance was amended to mirror State code and a vote will be taken tonight.

Commissioner Young stated that for some Commissioners, their vote to deny was not based on the ordinance (being changed to mirror State code); Ms. Custer acknowledged that.

Chief Deputy/License Inspector Anthony Donaldson reviewed the alcohol license application (copy on file).

Commissioner Warbington mentioned the 1981 change, asking if research has been conducted to determine if any records exist prior to 1981. Chief Donaldson stated that there was a license prior to 1981, but the current ordinance states that a 12-month lapse without having a license would cause it to be invalid.

Attorney Bo Strickland referred to his ORR and thanked those who provided information, stating that he was able to go back to 1968 in which a license to sell beer/wine on the property was granted; the Catholic School weighed in and expressed no objections. He entered into evidence an affidavit from

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Bob Brooks stating that he is aware that the property had a license and sold alcohol well before 1981 and, listed other evidence he planned to introduce.

Commissioner Young noted that the absence of the school's objection goes back to 1968, asking if any current contact has been made with the Catholic School, Mr. Strickland replied negatively.

Commissioner Warbington moved to overturn the alcohol license denial and to approve the current alcohol license, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Langstaff.

Commissioner Young stated that his reason for denial was not based on the ordinance change, adding that he does not understand the exclusion of St. Theresa's property since kids play there. He mentioned "vice marts", which cater to the habits of those who drink, smoke/vape, and gamble. He explained his objections to granting an alcohol license to the applicant, asserting that establishments of this type signal a deterioration of the neighborhood, with the quality of real estate there being lowered. He urged that these licenses being limited in Albany and stated that the denial should stand.

Hearing no additional comments, the roll call vote carried 5-2 with Commissioners Howard and Young voting no.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

ASST. CITY CLERK