

**CITY OF ARNOLDSVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
(CALLED MEETING)**

April 14, 2022

Council Present: Norma Craddock, Tracy Massey Danny Morcom,
Jack Norman, Danny Sniff (Mayor Spearing absent due to
family responsibilities; Mr. Morcom, Mayor Pro Tem, presided

Observers: Edward Hodgson & Whitney Carnes, Laura Dellinger, Mary Nouri

6:30 PM - Meeting called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Morcom

The purpose of this called meeting was to discuss a recent request presented to the council by E. Hodgson and W. Carnes regarding the possibility of the adoption of an Alcohol Ordinance to include the sale of beer and wine inside the city limits.

City Attorney Love presented several examples of ordinances that could be used to customize an ordinance that may work for Arnoldsville. He also explained that per Georgia law, the local government (city council) has “absolute power” in making this decision subject to State regulations. He also stated that even though this is the law, he would suggest that the council hold a Public Hearing to gain input from the citizens.

Council member Danny Sniff stated that he felt that Arnoldsville could make this work by placing restrictions etc. in the ordinance pertaining to what is best for a small town.

Council member Danny Morcom stated that he felt it would be complicated. He also said they could simply just not address allowing alcohol sales in the city.

Sniff then asked if they should “take the temperature” of the council to determine if they should continue the discussion.

Council member Tracy Massey reported that she had spoken to citizens regarding this issue with people mentioning concern regarding the parking situation at the location in question. Currently, the church across the street from No 3 Railroad is allowing overflow parking when an event is going on at the venue. Massey questioned the distance requirements for distance between alcohol sales and churches.

Council member Norma Craddock stated that she is ambivalent at this time on this subject. She did express concerns about safety issues with this proposal.

Danny Sniff again stated that he felt like the city “can make it work.”

Council member Jack Norman stated that he would vote no on this issue citing that Arnoldsville is a rural, residential bedroom community to Athens, not a business area. Norman stated that he had also been listening to the community on this issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Morcom stated that he would be opposed to any alcohol ordinance that only allowed for the sale of beer & wine. He feels that food service should be included.

After more discussion, Morcom stated that City Attorney Love should proceed with the composing of an ordinance for the council to review.

City Attorney Love made the following list of items provided by the council to include with the draft ordinance:

1. Food service for sale w/wine and beer
2. Restricted to the Commercial Business District
3. Time Restrictions/Days & Times
4. Distance to religious venues
5. Distance to residences
6. Fees (leaving this blank as well as enforceable exactness)
7. Citations (Code Enforcement Officer – Lynn Shedd)

7:37 PM Motion from Norma Craddock to adjourn with a second from Danny Sniff. Vote 4-0

 Date 4/21/22

Mayor

Date

Minutes prepared and submitted by Clerk, Debbie Love, April 21, 2022