

TOWN OF BAILEY PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES 4 /21/21

The Public Hearing of the Bailey Town Board of Commissioners was held on April 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

The following members of the Bailey Town Board were present: Commissioners Joel Killion, Dwan Finch, Shelley Bullard, and Allen Daniels. Also in attendance Kellie Glover, Town Clerk; Shawn Lucas, Zoning/Code Enforcer, and Interim Police Chief Cathy Callahan.

Called the Public Hearing to order:

Mayor Richards opened the Public Hearing for the internet sweepstakes café.

Shawn Lucas, Zoning/Code Enforcer stated this is for the text amendment when the applicant has put in a request to have an internet sweepstake in the Town Center District. He would like to apply it to 12552 Hanover Avenue. We will call Mr. Chris Hancock up first.

Chris Hancock commented we are considering to open up the place to bring some more people over. I have not done a lot of research because I did not know how this was going to play out. People love to gamble. It will bring more money and revenue to Bailey. I wanted to bring it up to see if the Town would consider it. It will not stay open late and no alcohol just a legit place to come and play to gamble. That is my idea. That is what we have.

Mayor Richards stated I have never been in one. All I know is gambling. What else?

Chris Hancock replied that is it just gambling. No alcohol. Not open on Sunday maybe not even open on Saturdays. Closing at 11pm. I do not want to cause any issues or problems with anyone in Bailey.

Shawn Lucas commented we are going to go over how this is going to go. He applied on February 5th. We sent out letters to residents that are one hundred feet of the location. A few of them are here tonight. We ran it in the Wilson Daily Times, on the Town's website, and on the front door of the Town Hall. I will show you on the map where the location is. It is located in Town Center District. We will open the floor to the people who have signed up tonight. We will go in order, first will be Tammy Bisette at 6430 Vance Street.

Tammy Bisette resident at 6430 Vance Street stated my husband and I live on the corner of Hanover and Vance Streets. I came out tonight because my family strongly opposes the internet sweepstake café. The distance from my back door to the front of this proposed business is one hundred fifty two feet it is fifty feet from my back door to their property line. To put that into prospective from the front door of Girls' Round Here is two hundred ninety two feet from this front door. This building is literally in my back yard. When we were first informed that an individual had asked for a text amendment we started doing research. Based on my research we can stand here and argue all night as to whether it is legal or not. But that is not what I want to talk about. What I want to talk about is the other information I uncovered in my research the crime that is related to these businesses. Just a few headlines that popped up when I did a simple search October 2020 Greensboro Sweepstake business robbed. December 2020 Lenoir County Sheriff's Office investigates the robbery with two armed suspect. January 2021 Lenoir County Deputy arrested and charged two in the robbery of sweepstake. And before anybody thinks this

is only in big cities. I just want to remind you in Spring Hope recently the sweepstake had two armed robberies the first in November 2019 and the second in January of this year. So I have had numerous conversations with law enforcement officers on this subject. One consistent recommendation for our Town if you allow the business you had better hire additional police officers. I am not ok with this. My husband and I are pro-growth. We serve on several boards and committees in this town to promote growth. But we also want to see the right kind of growth. The business will not attract local people it will most likely attract outsiders. Attracting outsiders is great but we have to ask ourselves is this really the traffic we want to invite to our Town. I for one can tell you this is not the kind of traffic I want in my back yard. And I don't want it in my Town. I will ask the Board to deny this request. I would like for you to keep in mind that we feel this business does not belong in this Town.

Shawn Lucas asked if the Board has any questions for Tammy. Chris, do you have any questions for Tammy? Next we have Quinta Taylor.

Quinta Taylor resident at 5781 Roseheath Road I live there with my husband and my sons. I am outside of Town. The reason I wanted to speak was because we moved here from Knightdale we choose Bailey because it is a family Town. It is a great place to raise kids. I oppose this motion because we really have come to love Bailey as a family place. I do applaud Chris wanting to bring people to Bailey. We do think there are so many better businesses to bring to Bailey. When we attended the meeting for the Bailey group these are some of the things the people said nice restaurants, cheap gas stations, leaf and limb truck, around the clock police coverage. One of the things we ran away from was crime. This is some of the kinds of businesses that are coming from Raleigh and pushing into Knightdale. Maybe a coffee shop, good internet service, a family pool, more eating places is what people want to come to Bailey again, I applaud Mr. Chris but not that kind of business. I think it will bring crime into Town. I pray that he will take one of these recommendations to help grow Bailey.

Shawn Lucas asked if the Board has any questions for Ms. Taylor. Chris, do you have any questions for Ms. Taylor? Next we have Jerry Bisette.

Jerry Bisette 6411 Vance Street stated I have served on both of your Boards the Planning Board and the Town Board. I commend the Board for doing a great job. There are a lot of thankless jobs here. When I was on the Planning Board we had one incident that we turned down and the Town Board over ruled us. It came back to haunt them. It was a bad situation; this one we have now is a similar to it. I am just hoping you all will make the right decision.

Shawn Lucas asked if the Board has any questions for Mr. Bisette. Chris, do you have any questions for Mr. Bisette? Next we have Lisa Matthews.

Lisa Matthews 12536 Sanford Street stated my husband and I have the Piggly Wiggly. The parking lot behind the building that Chris has belongs to us as well. My question for Chris is where do you plan for people to park? I do not want the liability if something happening to fall on us. I serve on the zoning board so that is my next question. As a business you are required to have so many parking spaces for your business. How many actually parking spaces does this business have? My main concern is the safety of the neighborhood this is in. We do not have law enforcement in our Town like we should. I

don't think we need to do anything like that. Most of this type business is in the County. The County does not want to support them. They have been closed down and opened back up. That is my concern. That is all I have.

Shawn Lucas asked if the Board has any questions for Mrs. Matthews. Chris, do you have any questions for Mrs. Matthews? Next we have Marabela Kruger.


Marabela Kruger 6222 Main Street stated I stumbled across Bailey with my realtor. One of the things that attracted me to it was the beauty. Everybody is friendly and is waving. Everybody knows everybody. I come from a big town. I live in Raleigh. I drive 40 to 45 minutes one way. I lost a good friend because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He was right by a sweepstake which is right by a police station. They started out with a permit to only be open x amount of hours closing at 8. They extended it to 10. Then 24/7. Once that permit is in place the hours can be changed fairly easy as we don't have police officers at night who is going to be there to protect the businesses. Who is going to be there to protect the houses around it? Yes, there is not alcohol but let's face it we were all under age at some point. We have to think from that stand point. If you open the door for people to misbehave will they take that opportunity if there is no one there to enforce the law? From that stand point I am concerned for my business at two or three o'clock someone busting windows because they lost two or three hundred dollars. I am concerned about people walking down the street late at night. I feel like a sweepstake will take away the beauty and the safety that Bailey has right now.

Shawn Lucas asked if the Board has any questions for Mrs. Kruger. Chris, do you have any questions for Mrs. Kruger? Next we will move into Town Council comments do you all have any questions or concerns? Do we need to go into closed session or are you ready to vote?


Walter Wells, Chair Bailey Planning Board asked would it be out of order for me to tell you what the process is. Just so you know if we allow this amendment it is going to be a two-step process. This is a text amendment to allow an internet sweepstake in Town Center District. It is not a text amendment to allow him to open up the business. It is a step. You have to allow it in the district before you can apply to open that type business in that district. If it is approved by the Town then Chris can come back to apply to open the business in that district. This will allow anyone to open that type of business in that district. Once you hand that over to the Planning Board if you so choose to do that. The planning Board will come back and give you their input on that. Like Jerry said it is up to the Town Board as whether you accept it or not. It is just a review and a recommendation. We cannot tell you to do it or not to do it.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion that we pass this text amendment request over to the Town of Bailey Planning Board for their review and recommendation to last no less than 30 days and no longer than 60 days. Commissioner Powell seconded, motion passed.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Killion seconded, motion passed.



Kellie Glover, Town Clerk



Mayor Thomas Richards

