

NOV. 10, 1980 - 8:50 P.M. SPECIAL HEARING OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE BEER LICENSE OF JACK'S PACKAGE STORE- JACK KNIGHT SHOULD BE REVOKED DUE TO SELLING OF BEER TO MINORS WITH MAYOR BURDETTE, ALD. LEWIS, ALD. KING, ALD. COX AND ALD. PACK IN ATTENDANCE

AAG461

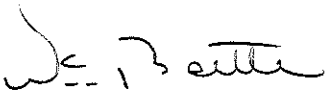
1. Mayor Burdette called the meeting to order.
2. Thomas E. Shanahan, City Attorney, restated the purpose of the hearing and gave background information including his interview with the three juveniles charged with purchasing the beer. The incident occurred on Sept. 19, 1980. Mr. Shanahan stated there was no procedure for the hearing outlined by the State or by the City ordinance, therefore the hearing would be held in an informal manner.
3. Attorney for Mr. Knight, J. C. Maddox, asked that the rules of evidence be used without all the technicalities, with all witnesses being sworn and the rules of sequestering being observed.
Maddox stated Mr. Knight would enter a plea of nolo contendere.
4. After sequestering all possible witnesses except Gregg Greeson, the following testimony was given as stated in summary form:
Examination by Attorney Shanahan
Name: Gregg Greeson, age: 15
Who's car were you in: Jeff Dyer's car
How many in auto: Three boys other than myself
Account of what transpired: Left football game in fourth quarter, rode around, went to Jack's Package Store, across from Gordon Hills Shopping Center, went to drive-in window. Jeff drove, I was in the front on passenger's side, Dwight Allen and Tim Bowers were in the back. Dwight asked the "bushy" headed attendant for a six pack of Budwiser in the can, and two Nationals, he handed the money in. Dwight is 16 years old. Attendant did not ask for identification. Jeff then asked for Budwiser in the can and paid. The attendant did not ask for identification. I ask for Budwiser in the can and paid. I was not asked for identification either. Tim did not actually buy any beer, Dwight purchased his. We went out to a back road and drunk the beer then went to a dance at the school and was questioned by an Officer at the school.
5. Cross examination by Attorney Maddox
age: 15
Do you know the meaning of taking an oath? Yes, to tell the truth.
How long have you been drinking? 2 years
Is this the first time you have purchased the beer? No
Have you ever been arrested? No
Have any of the other boys been with you when you purchased beer? Yes, Jeff
How many times: Once or twice
6. Alderman Pack - Had you had anything to drink before the purchase? No
7. Mayor Burdette - Why did you go to this store? Had been there before and purchased beer.
8. The Council stated that the testimony of Gregg Greeson was enough to establish the purchase unless Mr. Maddox wished to question any further witnesses.
9. Attorney Maddox made his summation. He requested fair and equal treatment not only for Mr. Knight but for all store owners*for the purchasers as well.
He stated that as a former Juvenile Judge he was aware of the serious problem of teenage drinking. He felt the responsibility for buying is with the parents, church, community and the package store. It must be a joint effort to correct with proper education of problems evolving due to drinking.
He asked for fair and equal justice for all.
10. Parents were asked to make any comments. Mr. Billy Joe Greeson stated that he wished to make it clear that the teenagers were charged.
Mrs. Eugene Bowers stated that certainly the parents, the community and church had responsibility for the teenagers, but she stated that the boys had been facing the situation and now they must have the community's support. The boys had not only had to attend a juvenile court hearing but were expelled from school for one week and received zeros for each day they were absent.

Jack Dyer stated the reason they came was because of concern, not only for their son but for other boys, not for any vindictive purpose.

Mr. Eugene Bowers stated that the case was focused on this particular purchase/sell rather than on any prior purchases. The boys have paid the price and justice should apply to the operator as well as to the boys.

11. Attorney Maddox stated he wished to emphasize that the boys received an informal adjustment at juvenile court which was equal to the nolo contendere plea of Mr. Knight.
12. Mayor Burdette stated that all the Aldermen were aware of the city ordinance and aware of their responsibility. The session would now be adjourned for deliberation.
13. Ald. Lewis stated the Council appreciated the boys and their parents attending the hearing.
14. After consideration, the Council fined the operator and license holder, Jack Knight, \$600.00.

Approved:



W. C. Burdette,
Mayor

Respectfully submitted:



(Mrs.) Cathy Harrison,
City Clerk