

LOCAL

Citizens continue to argue for right to vote on LBTD

REBECCA PISCOPO,
EMILY WEAVER

For the third month in a row, Kings Mountain citizens debated the controversial mixed beverage referendum even though City Council did not have the issue scheduled on Tuesday night's agenda.

Concerned citizens had asked for a vote on the mixed beverage sales referendum to be placed on the agenda last week. But the city refused. Mayor Rick Murphrey said that they didn't see the point of placing it back on the agenda if the resulting vote (4-3 against) was going to remain the same.

But the request for a mixed beverage vote continued Tuesday night with multiple clarifications on the issue, ensuing more debates.

Cleveland County Board of Directors' Economic Director Steve Padgett cleared-up the Chamber of Commerce's stance on mixed beverage during the meeting's "Citizen Recognition."

"The support requested by the KM Advisory Council was clearly understood and acknowledged to be for a right of citizens of the City of

KM to have a voice in their communities, future direction. The Cleveland County Board of Directors hereby encourage (the) Council to allow the Democratic process of the freedom to vote. That is the support of the Chamber," Padgett said, who also clarified that the Chamber is not throwing their support behind LBTD (liquor by the drink) itself being allowed in Kings Mountain.

But just as some folks were urging council members to allow citizens the right to vote, others were thanking them for not being allowed. There were supportive comments of last month's 4-3 vote against the LBTD referendum. Resident, Greg Carpenter congratulated City Council on their decision.

"I just wanted to say I appreciate the service you brought (KM)," Carpenter said.

There were also those in attendance, such as Gina Collias and Scott Neisler, who were not going to let the dust settle just yet. Collias has spoken at every City Council meeting about the right of the people of KM to

vote.

The Citizens for Progress Leader updated City Council members about a petition that is currently in four business locations in town. It has been approved by the Cleveland County Board of Elections, and it would also call for a referendum for mixed beverage sales if 35% of registered voter signatures can be obtained.

"I am here...to send the message that we, the citizens, who want the right to vote on mixed beverages, will not be silenced or oppressed. We will continue until the citizens' voices are heard and our votes are counted," Collias stated before council.

However, Dwayne Hoore believes that some who are passing out the petition are misleading the public. He said that when he went to Kings Mountain's one-stop voting site, the Masonic Lodge, to cast his ballot for the 2008 election he was stopped by a woman with that petition who allegedly did not tell him exactly what it was for.

Hoore said, "She told me that I needed to sign this petition for or against, as if it was

a vote. That was extremely misleading. I almost signed the petition then I realized when I read the paper that, that was a petition to get a certain number of names on that paper so they could have a vote."

He added that he quizzed her again, and claimed that she still said that the petition was for or against mixed beverages. Hoore requested that Council consider throwing out the petition.

Council, however, does not have that power. Hoore did say that he had called the Cleveland County Board of Elections because the woman who talked to him crossed over the line which said "No Campaigning beyond this point."

Jerry Mullinax, who voted for the mixed beverage referendum, contested against Hoore's point.

"I was out there also. I thought she did quite a job, and I think she was behind the 15 foot marker...I give them (those monitoring the petition) two thumbs up," Mullinax said.

Scott Neisler, who attended the meeting but didn't speak, said that those monitoring

the petition are trained first hand to say what the petition is for up front. It is also their job to tell a potential signer to read the print on the page.

Scott Carpenter, who does not support the referendum, said to City Council, "I encourage you to stick by your statements." He added that when beer and wine sales were allowed by the public's vote that only one, and now two grocery store chains have come to Kings Mountain. Yet, other businesses such as Winn-Dixie have shut down.

Even though there wasn't a vote Tuesday night, those in attendance still had stirring spirits over the right to vote on the sale of spirituous liquor.

In other City Council action, the mayor honored East Elementary Principal Jennifer Wampler for the school achieving No Child Left Behind's "Blue Ribbon Award."

Murphrey also recognized Autumn Roper, who is currently attending Cleveland Community College, for her Miss North Carolina crown in the "Miss America" pageant.

DEADLINES



ADVERTISING

Display Ads - 12 p.m. - Friday

Classified - 1 p.m. Monday

NEWS ITEMS & SOCIAL NOTES

1 p.m. Monday

LETTERS to the EDITOR

12 p.m. Monday

OBITUARIES

12 p.m. Tuesday

THE KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD

824-1 E. Kings St.

P.O. Box 769

Kings Mountain, NC 28086

(704)739-7496

Fax (704) 739-0611

Hours:

Monday through Friday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

POLICIES

• Submission of news items and social notes are recommended to be done a week in advance. Submission of items is not a guarantee that they will run in the newspaper.

• Letters to the editor must be signed and include address and phone number. Thank you letters are required to be placed as paid personal notes.

Walgreens rep to meet with West End Neighborhood Thurs.

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

Blanton Hamilton, a representative of Tribeck Properties, will meet with five West Mountain Street property owners Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at Kings Mountain City Hall to reply to concerns about proposed rezoning for a proposed Walgreen Drug Store in Kings Mountain.

Hamilton will present the site plan which has been modified since the rezoning request first came to the city planning board in September.

A public hearing on the rezoning request began Tuesday night during the regular City Council meeting and has been continued until Nov. 25th at City Hall at 7 p.m. The Planning & Zoning Board will meet Nov. 13 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall to make a recommen-

dation on the request and City Council will vote on the request Nov. 25th.

The upcoming action represents a third time around for Joe Champion, of Kings Mountain Properties, who filed the application. The proposed site is on the corner lot at the end of West Mountain Street and four additional lots on Mountain and King. Property owners have expressed concerns and signs have been posted in various locations in town, reading, "No Walgreen, stop rezoning."

Kings Mountain Properties seeks rezoning of properties located at 814 W. Mountain St., 811 West King St., 809 W. King St., 812 W. Mountain St., and 801 W. Mountain St. from Residential to Conditional District Office.

The conditions, which the applicant proposes and which

exceed the minimum requirements of the Kings Mountain Zoning Ordinance, according to Planning Director Steve Killian, are:

■ All structures are to be located as close as possible to W. King Street.

■ Existing landscape along W. Mountain Street to remain as is.

■ Sidewalks are to be added along West Mountain to enhance public safety.

■ Decorative street lighting to be installed along W. Mountain to enhance public safety.

■ Seven existing driveways will be reduced to two which also enhance public safety.

■ All structures will be architecturally in harmony with existing structures.

■ Decorative brick wall with pilasters along W. Mountain Street.