

CITY OF BLAKELY
Public Hearing
Rodney Thornton, Violation of Alcohol Ordinance

November 19, 2014
6:00 p.m.

I. Call To Order

Mayor Anthony Howard called the meeting to order. Council members present were Mayor Anthony Howard, Councilman Charles Middleton, and Councilman Andy Smith. Councilman Al Hutchins and Councilman Torre' Mills were not present. Also present was the City Clerk Melinda Crook, and the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman.

II. Purpose of Hearing

The City Attorney explained that this process of hearing was due to a violation of the alcohol ordinance and that in this meeting the Council could make a decision on what action they felt necessary.

III. Discussion

Officer Jennifer Hunt stated that on October 5th she noticed, shortly before 12:00am, that Old School 21 still had patrons inside and that music was still coming from the premises. She then stated that she waited until 12:02am to enter the building at which time she saw Mr. Thornton still in the DJ booth and customers still on the dance floor. She informed the Council that she asked Mr. Thornton multiple times for his driver's license and was ignored. She stated that this point he stepped up into a lookout point and stated that he didn't have his license and she then asked him to come down and that she informed him he was being placed under arrest. She informed the Council that she then asked Deputy Price to remove Mr. Thornton from the lookout point and place him in handcuffs. She then stated that Mr. Thornton started to wrestle around as if trying to avoid being handcuff and that Mr. Thornton's wife also came over and tried to stop her husband from being handcuffed. Deputy Hunt then stated that Mr. Thornton was intoxicated at the time. Deputy Hunt also informed the Council that all other establishments on Church St. had already closed down.

Mr. Thornton came before the Council stating that he knew the hours and that he was going to have everyone out of the club by 12:15. He stated he was not in the DJ booth and that the music was not playing. He then stated that he did

know which license that Deputy Hunt was requesting until she specifically stated his driver's license. He then stated that he did not resist arrest. He also stated that he had been at this location for 10 years.

Mr. Thornton's wife, Barbara, then spoke stating the same facts as Mr. Thornton but adding that the customers were in the process of exiting the building. The Mayor asked Barbara if closing by 12:00 was their common practice and she informed him that it was.

At this time a Deputy, that had accompanied Deputy Hunt into the premises, spoke to the Council stating that the club was still in operation when they entered. She also stated that Mr. Thornton was acting up when they were putting on the handcuffs.

The Mayor asked the Council if they had any questions. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to suspend Mr. Thornton's alcohol license for a period of 12 months. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Smith and Mayor Howard voting "YEH"

IV. Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Andy Smith to adjourn the November 19, 2014 Public Hearing. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Smith and Mayor Howard voting "YEH"

Anthony Howard