

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**February 9, 2010**

**4:45 P.M.**

Councilwoman Ladd, Chairman, called the meeting of the Safety Committee to order with Councilmen Murphy, Benson, Rico, Scott, Robinson, Berz, McGary and Gilbert present. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Dan Johnson, Richard Beeland, Officer Haskins, Officer Collins, Chief Maffett, Susan Dubose, Donna Kelley and Daisy Madison.

Chairman Ladd called the meeting to order and stated that we were looking at the City Beer Ordinance to see if there were things we could do that we are not actively doing; that Mr. Hugh Reece would give an example of what she was talking about.

**Mr. Reece**, a Community Outreach Specialist, was present and thanked Councilman McGary for putting him in contact with Chairman Ladd. He was talking on behalf of the Weed and Seed organization, which is under the non-profit umbrella; that they could apply for federal funds. He stated that he appreciated Chairman Ladd for bringing this forth because issues were popping up such as the shooting on 23<sup>rd</sup> St. and Deep Blue; that they had been working with the inspectors and wanted to fine tune what is in the Alcohol Ordinance; that people were applying for permits, who had not read the Ordinance, and the Board was saying “yes”, and they were getting their permits. He stated that he was partnering with Officers Haskins and Collins and wanted to see if they could not revise and rewrite the Alcohol and Beverage Ordinance; that something needs to be done and this needs to be tightened up; that kids are angry and are getting hold up alcohol and fighting and shooting; that the Ordinance limits the Beer Board in asking the Chief of Police to handle investigations and Chief Cooper says “no”.

Chairman Ladd noted that Mr. Reece was asking us to pull a panel together of different disciplines to help us to make changes in order to move forward.

Mr. Reece stated that a coalition was looking at the problems; that the public did not understand what holding a Beer Permit entails, and they wanted to offer Vendor Care classes so that the inspectors could go over the items line by line; that he had met with Chief Parker and Lt. Flint and also Assistant Chief Maffett and Chief Cooper; that Chief Cooper was on board with this and would like for DUI's to be involved; that they were coming in as a private entity to offer help.

Councilwoman Berz asked if he was saying that this class needed to be a pre-requisite before getting a license? Mr. Reece responded that under the rules and regulations, this would be a start.

Councilman Benson stated that the Beer Board had come a long way; that he had worked with Beer Board members and some were too lenient and sometimes gave three-day suspensions on days when the establishment would not be selling much anyway. He noted that some thought his member was too hard, but he was a man of integrity and principles; that sometimes you needed to be firm.

Mr. Reece stated that he would like to push them to be aggressive.

Councilman Gilbert stated that Mr. Reece had spent a lot of time working with kids, and he thanked him.

Mr. Reece stated that youth were leaving Chattanooga because they don't have opportunities here but they needed to be put on board—that word travels fast and these kids pay attention and watch the news.

Councilman Rico stated that he thought the Beer Board did a great job; that the Beer Board should have some discretion; that sometimes it is just a mistake and there is no need to make it hard on everybody.

Chairman Ladd stated that they had worked hard on this.

Mr. Reece stated that if the Council was willing to go the route of the class to let him know.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.