

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 16, 2009, 12:00 Noon

City Council met in Special Session at City Hall, 3851 River Ridge Drive NE, lower level conference room. Present were Mayor Halloran, Council members Fagan, Gulick, McGrane, Podzimek, Shey, Shields, Vernon and Wieneke. Also present were City Manager Prosser Assistant City Attorney Sheronick and Sandi Fowler.

The purpose of the meeting was regarding 2 motions on the agenda to renew the liquor license of The Tycoon, 427 2nd Avenue SE and approve the Outdoor Service Area (liquor) application of J.M. O'Malley's, 1502 "H" Avenue NE. Discussion was held and City Council members Shields and Fagan withdrew their requests to approve the motions.

Discussion was also held regarding the selection process for the Local Option Sales Tax Oversight Committee and how to choose nine members from 71 applicants. The Council decided it wants a diverse group long on specific skills like accounting, finance and construction with some representation from those affected by the June 2008 flood.

Council members talked at length about what they said was public confusion over what the oversight committee's role is to be. Council member Podzimek explained that the City Council decides how to spend the money. The oversight committee monitors those decisions to see that they are in accord with the ballot language of the March 3 sales tax referendum. He said the impression he had was that some committee applicants thought the committee would be making the sales tax spending decisions, not the Council.

The Council decided that each Council member will review all 71 applications and each will pick 20 people, ranked one to 20. City staff then will see which 20 of the 71 ranked best and those 20 will be interviewed for the nine committee spots with the committee to be in place by April 1.

Council adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Ann Ollinger, City Clerk

