

Aiken City Council MinutesMarch 8, 2004WORK SESSION

Present: Mayor Cavanaugh, Councilmembers Clyburn, Cuning, Price, Smith, Sprawls and Vaughters.

Others Present: Roger LeDuc, Gary Smith, Bill Huggins, Glenn Parker, Richard Pearce, Sara Ridout, J. C. Lexow of the Aiken Standard, Josh Gelinas of the Augusta Chronicle and about 40 citizens.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 6:45 P.M. He stated Council had one item that they would like to discuss in the work session.

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX COMMITTEEAppointments

Mr. LeDuc stated the City of Aiken's Accommodations Tax Committee oversees the accommodations taxes received from hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts in the City of Aiken. The seven members are required, by state law, to have the majority of the members selected from the hospitality industry of the municipality receiving the revenue. At least two of the hospitality industry members must be from the lodging industry, and one member shall represent a cultural organization. Currently only Neel Shah, who was appointed by Councilwoman Vaughters, is from the lodging industry. In March, four appointments need to be made for this committee. One of those needs to represent the lodging industry, one the cultural industry, and two can remain at-large. Currently, of the four individuals up for reappointment, only Jan Cwalina represents the cultural industry and could continue in that capacity should you desire. One of the three at-large would then need to represent a lodging business. Once Council has decided how this committee will be made up, we will then need to have four individuals either appointed or reappointed by Councilmembers Price, Cuning, Clyburn, and Mayor Cavanaugh.

Councilwoman Clyburn asked if the staff had a list of persons who may be interested in the committee who would be eligible for the committee.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he would like to keep his nomination Jan Cwalina, who has been on the committee and has done a great job for the committee. He said she represents the cultural industry.

Councilwoman Clyburn pointed out that her current appointee is an artist and asked if that could be considered the cultural industry.

Mr. LeDuc stated the staff had looked at possible appointees in the lodging industry. He said Peggy Penland, Steven Mueller of Rose Hill, and Nash Champaneri of Comfort Inn & Suites were some suggestions.

Councilmembers Cuning, Clyburn and Price all stated that they would like to reappoint their appointee.

Mr. LeDuc stated there needed to be at least two from the lodging industry and a majority from the hospitality industry.

Council discussed the matter. It was suggested that the Councilmembers contact their appointees to see if they want to continue to serve on the Committee, and if so that Council draw straws to see who would need to change their appointee to someone from the lodging industry. It was suggested that the matter be decided at the next Council meeting.