

**Maryville City Council**  
**Special Session**  
**19 vs. 21 Admissions in Bars**  
Maryville Community Center  
1407 N. Country Club Rd  
April 23, 2013  
7:00 p.m.

The Council of the City of Maryville, Missouri, met in special session on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at the Maryville Community Center, 1407 North Country Club Road, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Fall, with the following present to-wit: Mayor James Fall, Council Members Ronnie Moss, Glenn Jonagan, Renee Riedel and Jeff Funston. Others present were City Manager Greg McDanel, Dir., Public Safety Keith Wood and City Clerk Sheila Smail.

The purpose of this meeting was to allow conversations between the City Council, Staff and the general public regarding the issue of “19 verses 21 Year Old Admission to Bars”.

The public discussion session was opened by Mayor Fall, with an introduction of Council Members and Staff Members. Those present were encouraged to ask questions and share their views regarding the subject.

Dir., Public Safety Keith Wood was asked to give a brief history of the age constraints of people entering the bars. Dir. Wood explained that until 1995, the City of Maryville had no limit on the age a person must be to enter a bar. There were concerns about High School age students in the bars so the Council adopted an ordinance to restrict the minimum age to nineteen (19) years old. The State of Missouri currently has no laws restraining the age limit. It has been perceived by many that the City lowered the age to 19 from 21, which was not the case. The City has taken a pro-active approach with incorporating “Bar Patrol”. This activity involves two (2) Public Safety Officers making rounds to the various bars, watching for alcohol violations such as Minor in Possession (MIP), Contributing to a Minor, and other acts violating Municipal Code.

April 11, 2013, the Northwest Missouri Mental Health Task Force (MHTF) hosted their Spring Conference focusing on bullying and a “21 & Over” ordinance adopted by the City of Warrensburg, MO. Several staff and City Council members attended the presentation from Warrensburg Partners in Prevention (WPIP) to listen to their efforts and issues faced in Warrensburg before the “21 & Over” ordinance was put into effect.

Tony Brown, Maryville Daily Forum Reporter, inquired about the differences between the issues faced locally and those at Warrensburg. Warrensburg/Central Missouri State University (CMSU) dealt with an area known as “Pine Street” where most of their bars are located and patrons go bar to bar. The event that caused officials to take a hard look at changing the age limit was a near riot situation. The City

of Maryville/ Northwest Missouri State University (NWMSU) have not experienced difficulties to this degree, but it was reported that there have been instances that were concerning to law enforcement.

Dir. Wood noted that with the inception of Bar Patrol, the officers randomly patrol the bars and have built positive relationship with the bar owners.

Wayne Pierson, 26246 State Hwy F, inquired about the age limits of other university towns comparable to the size of NWMSU. Missouri University of Science & Technology (MO S&T) of Rolla, Missouri, is the only other university in the State of Missouri that allows patrons under the age of twenty-one (21). Mr. Pierson explained his reasoning for his recommendation of changing the age limits to twenty-one (21) and stated that allowing younger patrons in creates an environment for actions to get out of control.

The amount of under twenty-one (21) year old patrons of the bars was estimated to be twenty-four percent (24%). Dir. Wood identified another issue of concern being litter of cups and cans that are carried outside the establishment. A stricter "Open Container" ordinance would assist in rectifying that issue.

Margaret Pierson, 26246 State Hwy F, speaking from a parent's point of view, requested that the City adopt a comprehensive plan that will make stronger enforcement and penalties. As a community, she requested that underage drinking issue be address in a manner that the youth relearn the behavior of socializing without alcohol. The open container law needs reviewed with consideration of further restrictions.

Mick Hoskey, owner of Molly's Bar, disagreed with the assumption that minors are in the bars to drink. He suggested that minors come to socialize with friends and have a good time. He added that he welcomes Bar Patrol to come into his establishment.

With no further discussion Mayor Fall thanked the attendees and participants for coming. Mayor Fall closed the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Attest:  
Mayor

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James R. Fall,

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Sheila Smail, City Clerk