

Wheatland, Wyoming
July 1, 2004

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
GOVERNING BODY OF THE
TOWN OF WHEATLAND

A special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Wheatland, County of Platte, State of Wyoming was held in the Council Room of the Town Hall for the purpose of a public hearing on a liquor license transfer application from Safeway Stores Inc..

Mayor Dingman called the meeting to order and upon roll call it was found that the following were present; Councilmen Wilhelm, Wilson and Geile. Also present was Town Attorney, Doug Weaver and Town Clerk/Treasurer, Cindy Kahler.

Mayor Dingman stated that the purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing on an application from Safeway Stores 46 Inc. to transfer a license presently being held by Lori Britton dba 49'er Bar. The Mayor indicated that the application had been sent to the State Liquor Commission and they had stated the forms were in order. Mayor Dingman opened the public hearing.

Safeway Stores Inc. Attorney, John Sundahl presented an artist conception of the proposed store and pictures of the store in Laramie. He also presented a petition containing 713 signatures that were obtained in the local Safeway Store. Mr. Sundahl, introduced Dan Clayton, Safeway Stores Inc. Real Estate Manager, Teri Adams, Laramie Safeway Store Liquor Dept. Manager, local Safeway Store Manager, John Trout and Lori Britton, the current owner of the liquor license. Mayor Dingman added that a memo from Mr. Sundahl addressing issues such as the target market, hours of operation, purchasing liquor, and competition had been received and would be part of the record of the public hearing.

Mr. Clayton stated that Safeway considers this important to them as it allows them the opportunity to become "one stop shopping". He also stated that Safeway is committed to the project with an investment of \$500,000.00 and stressed that they wish to remain an part of the community. Ms. Adams stated that she is the manager of the liquor shop in the Laramie Safeway and she went over some of the management practices that are implemented in the store; strong I.D. policy, birth dates go into the cash register, purchasing of alcohol must be done in the liquor shop, four cameras with T.V. screen above the cash register, heavy security for employees and customers, discouraging to minors as they have to go through the front of the grocery store to get to the liquor store, everything must be bagged. She indicated that the target customers are those wishing to purchase beer or wine to go with food and they do not inventory kegs of beer. Councilman Geile asked how the 713 signatures were obtained and Mr. Sundahl indicated that they were customers at the local Safeway store. Councilman Wilhelm asked if there would be an outside entrance and

Mr. Sundahl stated only an “emergency exit.

Lori Britton stated that running a bar takes too much time and she would like to continue with her teaching profession. She indicated that it was her opinion that Safeway would do a good job of management and the transfer would take a “bar” out of the community.

Several people spoke in favor of the transfer and Mr. Sundahl stated that Safeway has no intentions of driving anyone out of business, they will not have a drive up window and have a proven track record of managing liquor well.

Councilman Geile asked if everyone pays the same for liquor at the wholesale level and Lori Britton stated that they do.

Mayor asked for comments in opposition to the transfer. Commodore Bar owner, Ron Elliott stated that it would certainly hurt his business. Discount Liquor owner, Dee Bachmeier voiced concerns about the availability it would provide to minors and those people who purchase for minors, pricing issues and she stated that the grocery business and the liquor business should remain as two separate businesses. Lori Britton stated that she sees a lot of her students in the parking lot shared by Cinema West, Food Pride and LeAnn’s package Liquor and had never witnessed a problem. Norman Lock stated that he was speaking in behalf of the families in the community, particularly the ones that have been devastated by alcohol and he felt that it was a mistake to place alcohol in a grocery store as it gives young people the impression that alcohol is fine, after all it’s sold where they buy their food. Mr. Lock took issue with the petition containing the 713 signatures by stating that the grocery store clerks were misleading when they asked people to sign the petition. He stated the clerks told people they could not have a bakery in Safeway unless they had a liquor store and he requested that the petition not be considered by the Council. Several people spoke in opposition to the petition and the transfer. Linda Holst stated that Safeway indicated that this transfer would increase the long term viability of the store and she wanted to know if there was a possibility that Safeway would leave. Mr. Clayton stated that this is just an investment in the store and not a threat to leave the community. Mr. Trout stated that Safeway has been working very hard on a bakery set up, which will probably be a satellite from Cheyenne. He stated fresh bakery goods would be brought from Cheyenne on a daily basis. Bonnie Newton stated that she was in agreement with Mr. Lock and presented a petition against the transfer with 78 signatures. She stated that she had just recently become involved with the issue and could have gotten more signatures with more time.

After further discussion the Mayor thanked everyone for their interest and participation in the meeting and he felt that everyone had done a good job of presenting their concerns. A motion was made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Wilhelm to approve the application from Safeway Stores 46 Inc. for a transfer of the 49'er Bar liquor license. Councilman Wilson stated that he was saddened that convenience is preached to sell alcohol and everybody needs to remember that alcohol is a drug. Mayor Dingman called for the vote; Councilman Wilhelm-yes, Councilman Geile-yes,

Councilman Wilson - no, Mayor Dingman-yes. Mayor Dingman declared the motion carried.

Mayor Dingman thanked everyone for their participation and stated he wished he had a crystal ball to see into the future, which we obviously don't have, what we have is some history of Safeway Corp. establishing this in a community and it working extremely well. We have a person that wishes to get out of the alcohol business and my rationale is that it is a trade off. The economic side of me says that it is a free enterprise system. The Christianity side of me says "I'm not sure, but we'll see what the people think".

With no further business to come before the Governing Body, Mayor Dingman adjourned the meeting at 8:30 P.M..

Mayor, Dingman

Attest:

Clerk/Treasurer, Cindy Kahler