

**Village of Lovington  
Special Board Meeting  
January 24, 2022  
6:00 p.m.  
Facial Masks Required**

**Call to order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Guests:**

**Appoint New Trustee**

**Oath of Office administered to appointed trustee**

**Open Meeting**

**Discussion on the possibility of changing the Village liquor ordinance from no liquor sales on Sunday to selling  
Liquor on Sunday's**

**Adjournment**

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January 24, 2022  
6:00 p.m.  
Facial Masks Required**

**Call to order:** President Roger Walker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Walker led the pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call found the following trustees to be present: Dennis Garmon, Todd Hale, Curt Clough, Mike Young and April Daily. President Roger Walker and Clerk Alma Fair were also present.

**Oath of Office Administered to Appointed Trustee**

Clerk Fair lead the oath of office for Brittany Bates.

**Guests:** Craig Swinford, Bob & Darlene Barlow, and Tyler Dixon

**Discussion of the possibility of changing the Village liquor ordinance from no liquor sales on Sunday to selling liquor on Sunday's,**

1. Craig Swinford - Not in support of selling liquor on Sundays. He handed out his statement which is attached to these minutes.
2. Darlene Barlow – agreed with Pastor Swinford. She is not in favor of selling liquor on Sundays.
3. Bob Barlow – agrees with his wife and Pastor Swinford. He has serviced on boards, so he knows how difficult it is for the board to make discissions.
4. Tyler Dixon – he is respectful of the others' opinions, but he is in favor of changing the ordinance.
5. Roger Walker – his wife is also opposed to liquor sales on Sunday.

Walker also reported that Lovington is the only community in this area that does not sale liquor on Sunday.

Garmon asked if the ordinance was ever on the ballot to be voted on by the community? Walker answered he believes no – All communities where dry and it was changed from dry to selling. But he would check with the attorney. Garmon just wanted to know that we were not doing anything incorrect if the board was to change the ordinance and it had been on the ballot to not sell on Sundays than we might need to put it on the ballot again.

Hale - although he can see those that oppose point of view, he is for changing the ordinance to sell liquor on Sunday. He doesn't think there will be too many people in the bars on Sunday any way.

Clough – On Sunday's if anyone wants liquor they have to drive out of town and if they are drinking than they are drinking and driving. Right now, it would be bad for the Legion if we changed the ordinance to sell liquor on Sunday.

Daily – those that would come on Sunday are those that want to play machines.

Young – Didn't know there was any community that was dry until he moved to Lovington.

Garmon – the main reason would be to play the gambling machines and that is the reason we are now discussing this because of the State of Illinois rule that to have gambling machines you must be able to sell liquor.

Bates – is against it. There are three places downtown that they can get liquor and play games though the week.

Swinford – he is concerned about the moral fabric of the community.

Dixon – Liquor isn't always negative – Just because you drink, or gamble doesn't mean you are a bad person.

Clerk Fair reminded all that if the board votes to change the ordinance that they can set the time of liquor sale on a Sunday.

Garmon – if we were to pass, he thinks that noon would be a good time to open.

Walker – has a list of times of different communities' around us.

Walker will have the question put on the agenda in February.

**Adjournment**

**A Motion** was made by Garmon to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

**YEA:** all agreed

**No:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**



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Alma M. Fair, Village Clerk

February 14, 2022

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Date Approved

1/24/2022

Good evening. I am Craig Swinford, Pastor of 1st Christian Church here in Lovington.

I am here to express my concern and the fact that I am not in support of approving the village ordinance for liquor sales on Sundays.

Liquor is sold 6 days a week here in Lovington and I feel that is more than enough. Sunday is not only a sacred day, It is also a Family Day and I would hate to see anything jeopardize this wholesome day.

Lovington, like many small town's has faced challenges and continues to face challenges. I do not believe the sale of liquor on Sunday will bring any good. The fact is, the only thing I've seen alcohol do in lives is cause ruin.

My wife and I have been praying for this community for over 2 years now and I know others are praying as well. It is my firm belief that by the grace of God, and a lot of dedication, the village of Lovington will thrive once again. Selling alcohol on Sundays will not help us thrive again.

If tax revenue is of concern, I am sure that the recent addition of the Dollar General to our area has added greatly to the tax revenues.

The moral fabric of our world, country and communities is quickly falling apart. The sale of alcohol on Sundays will not heal our our communitys moral fabric, it will only cause additional damage.

I respectfully ask that the sales of alcohol not be allowed on Sundays in the community of Lovington.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Craig Swinford  
1st Christian Church Lovington Illinois

