The workshop was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sharp.

The following City Council members were in attendance:

   Lee Buck
   Penny Christian
   Steve Hartkemeyer
   Rick Knight
   Dick Matthews
   Tom Taylor
   Mayor Fland Sharp

Also present were City Manager George Forbes, Police Chief Bruce Thomason and City Clerk Heidi Reagan.

**Purpose of Workshop**

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss regulating the hours of sale of alcoholic beverages.

After calling the workshop to order, the Mayor turned the meeting over to Alcohol Solutions to make a presentation.

Mark Willingham of Alcohol Solutions, LLC presented, “Possible Options for Reducing Alcohol Related Problems”. Mr. Willingham discussed the scope of the problem and provided statistics on alcohol-related deaths, injuries and crimes at the national, state and local level. He stated that in addition to these problems, alcohol abuse affects the community’s quality of life, reputation and police services. Mr. Willingham then reviewed the many types of beverage licenses that are available from the state. He also explained that with regard to regulating alcohol sales in the State of Florida, the legislature only allows a local government to regulate hours of sale and establish where it can be sold through the zoning authority, but even these are limited. The City can pass a “Rescindable Extended Hours of Sale” ordinance that puts the burden to prevent violations on the beverage retailer. Extended hours can then be granted based on the demonstrated use of alcohol policies, practices, employee training, management systems and risk abatement and mitigation practices.

Mr. Willingham completed his presentation and opened the floor up for questions.

The Council asked several questions regarding the City’s authority to establish laws and penalize beverage retailers for not complying. Questions were also raised regarding the state’s audit frequency and oversight of beverage retailers. Mr. Willingham explained that in order to take
punitive action against a beverage license holder, there must be some proof of the violation. He stated that audits are done annually. Mr. Knight asked if the table and chairs that are required in a restaurant/bar establishment have to remain set up. Mr. Willingham stated that they do not - they need only be on the premises. It was further discussed that generally it’s only 10% of the beverage license holders that create 90% to 100% of the problems. Establishing some restrictions that would target this 10% is what’s needed.

Mayor Sharp stated that in the interest of time, public comments can be made at the Council meeting immediately following this workshop. He added that Mr. Willingham would be available between the meetings to answer questions from the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Submitted by: Heidi Huettinger
City Clerk

Approved:

/s/Fland O. Sharp
Fland O. Sharp, Mayor

Date: February 1, 2010