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Carlisle Mayor Lee Bentz casts second veto in 1989; notice cites companionship, economics as reasons Council members call for August 4 special meeting

By Josh Shepherd
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF

For the second time in 1989, Carlisle Mayor Lee Bentz has vetoed an ordinance passed by Carlisle City Council.

Last Thursday morning, July 27, a public notice was delivered to the Carlisle Mercury office stating: Carlisle Mayor Lee Bentz vetoed Ordinance Number 6, 1989 expressing the intent of the Carlisle City Council to annex property extending from the Carlisle cemetery to the 19th Hole at Carnico into the City of Carlisle.

In a signed notice sent to the Carlisle Mercury and to all members of the council, Bentz stated the ordinance to annex the property is a companion measure to the vetoed city ordinance for liquor by the drink.

The Mayor's veto notice read in part:

"The purpose of these companion ordinances cannot be attained unless they pass together. As the liquor by the drink ordinance failed, there is no reason to annex this territory with its additional financial burdens of providing Public Safety Protection and potential extension of city utilities, absent attaining the primary purpose of fostering economic development through liquor by the drink. This is due to the minimal amount of tax revenue to the city as a result of this annexation with no liquor revenue to offset the financial cost to the city.

The proposed annexation is not in the best interest of the City of Carlisle, and the Ordinance of Intent to Annex is hereby vetoed." Bentz said in the notice of veto.

Reaction to the city by city council members and area business owners is mixed.

Cartmell Lester said the mayor's veto is "a step back wards."

If the city were advertised well along highway 68, it couldn't help but bring some business into Carlisle, he said.

"There is also an additional plus to the annexation I'm not sure people are aware of. The Columbia Gas transmis-

sion line to Toyota would be in the city because part of it runs through the area we intended to annex," he said.

Prior to the veto, a meeting on the certification of city met on Wednesday and there was some talk of the advantages the annexation would have for business in Carlisle, Lester said.

"The annexation would help put Carlisle on the map," Lester said. "The liquor by the drink no longer has anything to do with our intentions and is not at issue anymore."

However, in support of the Mayor's veto, councilman Tommy Vaughn said he does not see where the annexation would benefit the city at all.

"We have had a sign advertising Carlisle out in front of the entrance to Mayville Road for many years and it doesn't seem to bring in much business, so why would having a sign along 68 help any more than the other?" Vaughn said.

"If we annex that area into the city, it would increase the area city policeman would be obliged to cover."

"We are all ready having trouble maintaining a diligent enough watch on Carlisle

alone. If we annexed the portion of Lake Road in question, we would not have enough police to adequately patrol. And Carlisle does not have the money to pay for additional policeman or vehicles to cover that kind of area," Vaughn said.

He said he has been against the annexation since it first came up and he is not prepared to change his position.

Charles Fay said the Mayor's veto serves the best interests of the city of Carlisle.

Councilwoman Betty Barton said she and the mayor traveled around the city with a Frankfort representative of the Certification of Cities and the mayor never said a word as to his intentions as she pointed out to the representative the area to be annexed and what it would mean for Carlisle.

"I am disappointed with the Mayor's decision because he doesn't seem to realize that the annexation would benefit Carlisle and serve its financial progress. It would help our local businesses, and they need it. I am also unhappy because, in a way, Bentz has

made me feel like I lied to this representative and I am not a person who lies to people," Barton said.

Councilman Doug Garrett declined to comment and councilman Jeff Tyrer could not be reached for comment.

Carlisle Chamber of Commerce representatives and members of the Main Street Program Board, during the last City Council meeting, went on record supporting the annexation.

Bob Hester, president of the Carlisle - Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce and administrator of the Nicholas County Hospital, said, "The Chamber came out in support of the annexation during a city council meeting and it still is in support of the annexation. Any issue involved with it is secondary to the annexation itself."

"It would be a plus to have the Carlisle City Limits extended to 68 because it might alleviate the minus of having the left turn to the entrance of Mayville Road. It is evident that that left turn has harmed business in Carlisle and we should do as much as possible to lessen that minus."

Carl Sparks, a member of the Carlisle Main Street Program Board, a member of the Chamber of Commerce board of directors and owner of Country Collectibles in Carlisle, said, "People are reacting to the issue on an emotional and not a practical level. I, myself, have done everything short of waving a banner at the 58-36 intersection to get people to come and patronize my business. The liquor by the drink ordinance has been defeated and is no longer an issue to be involved with annexation."

"Tourism, however, is a viable money maker for Carlisle, but if people do not know where we are, how can we expect them to come? With the annexation, I have no doubt that business in Carlisle would improve."

Members of Carlisle City Council have called a special meeting August 4 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the veto.

The letter announcing the meeting was delivered to the Carlisle Mercury August 1 and signed by council members Jeff Tyrer, Doug Garrett, Betty Barton, and Cartmell Lester.

Two fire departments respond to help call

By Josh Shepherd
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF

Nicholas County and Carlisle City fire departments were called Thursday morning when a grease fire broke out in the kitchen of Garrett's restaurant.

After the call was made, Deputy Sheriff Charles Smith arrived at the scene along with Ronald McWhorter carrying a chemical fire extinguisher from a hospital ambulance.

The county and city fire trucks arrived soon afterward as heavy smoke began to roll from the restaurant's exhaust vent in the back of the building and patrons of the restaurant quickly evacuated the building.

Within minutes the fire was brought under control and extinguished.

Dick Garrett, cooking at the time the blaze started, said the fire did not start on the top gas burners, but rather came from beneath the stove.

The extinguisher in the restaurant would not work. That was when we made the call for help," Garrett said.

Despite smoke, the fire apparently caused only minor damage to the restaurant stove.

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Nicholas County Hospital personnel, with assistance from the Carlisle - Nicholas County Ambulance service, help with the transporting of James Dale Watkins, 16, of Carlisle to University Medical Center via the Center's helicopter. Watkins, who was apparently shot accidentally by a .22-caliber rifle while reaching for a roof inside a truck, died at UK Medical Center at about 2:08 p.m., according to Fayette County Deputy Coroner Norman Webster. The accident occurred about 12:30 p.m. on a farm near his Watkins Lane home in Nicholas County. According to coroner's reports, the bullet entered the middle of Watkins' chest and exited through the middle of his back. Watkins was transported to Nicholas County Hospital by personal vehicle and later airlifted to UK. Watkins, a farm laborer was the son of Marvin and Phyllis Brooks Watkins. Funeral services were held last Friday under the direction of Mathers - Gaunce Funeral Home. - Hank Bond Photo



Looking for garden buys
Dorsey Lynn Watkins, left, watches as local residents choose from the produce he has for sale during the Carlisle Main Street Program's Farmers' Market, Saturday behind the courthouse. Two area farmers participated last Saturday. - Beth A. Bond Photo



Carlisle Mayor Lee Bentz, seated, council members Cartmell Lester and Betty Barton meet with a representative of the Kentucky Certified Cities program. The meeting was held last Wednesday at the Main Street Program office in Carlisle. Several area representatives and state officials took part in the review process. Carlisle's status in the program, good or bad, will be available in the next few weeks. - Carol H. Bond Photo