

FOCUS

Bond's Broadcast
By Hank Bond



Last Friday night's council meeting provided a strange mixture.

There was a combination present of many business owners, a council chamber full of elected officials, media, and interested parties. It usually isn't a good idea to have two columns appear on a page surrounding the same subject, but I have no input into what Josh has to say, only to take a glance at it and determine its legal position.

However, this week, both columns surround the same topic: Annexation is the focus of the problem. I know there are several against this annexation - as I told the mayor and councilman Vaughn, that's the American way. If nothing else this gave many people the opportunity to speak out.

The questions I have surrounded what has gone on here in the past months. The city council and mayor have indebted this community in the mega-buck category for water and sewer improvements. These improvements were based in part to allow expansion and growth.

The desire for this expansion and growth was undeniably, thus the improvements were to be available for expansion of any type, it would have appeared.

The question here, is how can this council ask the citizens of Carlisle to pay much higher rates for water and sewer and then not allow additional customers?

Bob Faul, the operator of 19th Hole of Carlisle, has said he will not ask council to extend water and sewer lines to his property. This however, isn't the real issue. The strip of land which would have been annexed if the veto had been voted down would then be available for development within the city.

This of course, would mean additional water and sewer customers to add to the base of customers paying for these debts. It is ironic, Gene Kelley, who works for the city and is involved in these water and sewer projects, came before this special council meeting to discuss problems and concerns about the projects' progress - especially the sewer project.

LETTERS

I have read several of your comments on business, trade, and the paper as related to the community. I feel that your comments were well founded. Let me give a response that is also realistic. You can have all the main street programs that you want, but they do not take the place of good jobs. Until the leadership of this community decides to go to Frankfurt and lobby for the rise in Nicholas County is thing up here.

There are good business people in Carlisle and they deserve your support. Yet there are so many things we need to do in our mountainous county. At the same time we are lashed with the affluence of bluegrass counties.

I have enumerated all sorts of lame excuses as to why Carlisle can't get an industry. The reality is that the old days are gone and we never going to be the same. The hard facts are we can leave a dynamic area that offers people a chance or we can be just what is at present. In my opinion, it is not in many ways more than America is just what it is at present.

Allen Clay Stinson

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It is incomprehensible council as a whole would vote to take on this kind of debt - based on a desire to serve present customers and add new ones - and then be unable to agree on this type of issue.

There's no sense in kidding here - liquor by the drink was the overriding factor involved. This is no place - in this column - to debate that issue, however, I cannot understand, and apparently there are several who do not, how the mayor can veto an annexation measure which did not mention liquor by the drink by the veto act just that.

There is always the possibility Faul would go back to council and ask for the liquor by the drink ordinance again, should the property be annexed, but that was not the issue here.

Council has made it clear - as has the mayor - there is not sufficient support for liquor by the drink to pass that ordinance with this council.

Come January there is always the potential for a change in the make-up of city council, but until then as it is now it is a dead issue. I hope the issue comes up again. I hope the vote is taken again. This time though, I hope the issue of annexation comes up all by itself with nothing else to be considered.

Josh Shepherd From Left Field

As I hope all people in Carlisle are aware, a special meeting of the Carlisle City Council was held Friday to discuss the veto of an ordinance to annex land extending from the Carlisle Cemetery to the 19th Hole of Carlisle.

Apparently area merchants and business persons were not supportive of the Mayor's veto and wished for some time in order to voice their opinions and perhaps sway the positions of two council members or the Mayor on the issue.

However, from a purely critical point of view, what occurred in the city building Friday amounted to nothing less than a shouting match and a near personal attack on Mayor Lee Bentz, Tommy Vaughn, Charlie Fay, and Bob Faul.

When notice of the veto first became public, one business person said opponents to the ordinance were reacting on a purely emotional, not an intellectual or practical level.

However, judging from the arguments that spontaneously erupted in the meeting, it seems not only were opponents guilty of reacting from the gut, but also those who wished to see the ordinance enacted.

This impromptu meeting suffered from a severe lack of planning, preparation, or any semblance of organization.

The Council Chamber was filled to capacity with Carlisle business owners, organization leaders from the Chamber of Commerce and the Main Street Program, as well as several other interested parties who, I assume, wanted time to state their positions and arguments.

Instead, the meeting was dominated by the opinions of a few people who were able to wedge their voice over others to express either their dissent or support.

The rest were forced to serve as mere spectators to a spectacle of near chaotic dimensions. There was no order. There was no organization.

Mayor Bentz called for order several times during the meeting, but his efforts to bring certain amount of civility or organization went largely ignored by the other council members. As a result, the meeting was a haphazard attempt by several people to bully in their own opinions without regard to others who may have had something to say.

There is no way Carlisle will be able to go back to its glory days when businesses flourished like they did 40 and 50 years ago, but if the city as a business community is to survive, then some changes have to be made.

One thing is abundantly clear - things as they are will not get the job done. There has to be some change in the mode of operation. If not this annexation, then something.

There were several ideas brought up at council - maybe some of these have viability - maybe some do not. But, if we want Carlisle to survive as an economic reality and we want to compete for available dollars, then it would be advisable to look at each suggestion as a possibility.

There is an old gambler's saying which can be converted to use here. It is said a true gambler should never gamble with his heart - but always use his head. There's little difference in this situation. There was a lot of heart speaking out, but little reasoning. That will have to change for anyone to succeed.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

What needed to be done by the four council members that called the meeting, Betty Barton, Jeff Tyrer, Doug Garrett, and Cartmell Lester, was to set up and organize a forum so that each person with an interest in the issue could be heard and their questions answered without being interrupted by dissenting comments from other people.

If the council thought the issue needed to be debated, then get two people to debate, not an entire room of angry individuals.

But, most importantly, there seemed to have been no effort on the part of those who wanted the annexation passed to show what, if anything, could be done with the land in question, save the placing of a "Welcome to Carlisle" sign on Highway 65.

As it was, this meeting was big on emotional fervor and short on any practical or intellectual input save that of economic development repeated over and over again.

The problem has to do with Public Perception. The only perceived connection the 19th Hole of Carlisle has with the public is the liquor by the drink issue several months ago. That is why, with nothing else being offered as an alternative besides a simple metal sign, are council members supposed to direct their thinking?

Nothing was offered to inspire the imagination as to the possibilities the area promised. At the meeting, I spoke of long range plans. Yet supporters of the annexation offered nothing more than the annexation being a step in the right direction. Not even the Chamber of Commerce nor the Main Street representatives, whose job it is to establish long range plans for economic development, had anything concrete to show that could have swayed the decision of one councilman and overturned the veto.

Before this issue is raised again, I urge city planners to come up with a viable plan, a concrete vision, for the land's use rather than relying on abstract claims of economic development, because that type of argument inevitably goes nowhere. The assertion is hollow; they are words with no substance attached to them.

It also requires council members to keep an open mind and not to react stubbornly, or, worse, to ignore the arguments of those the council have been elected to represent.

I have gone on record supporting the annexation, which is a very wise thing to do. Yet, I have been a very vocal foe for economic growth.

But, if the annexation is, as supporters say, a step in the right direction, I would like to know just what that direction is.

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I'm doing research on family history and would greatly appreciate if you could just put a couple of lines of your paper that could be helpful in this project.

I am considering if anyone in your area has information such as parents names and birth dates of William Preston Hardin who was born in Carlisle, KY on April 1, 1859. He married Caroline Richards from Mt. Sterling, KY in 1872.

I was talking to Sherry Howard from your local historical society and she thought it might be a good idea to do this since someone in the area may just know.

OBITUARIES

Obitervan
John B. Gilvin, 78, 1008 Liberty Road, Lexington, died Tuesday, August 1, 1989 at St. Joseph Hospital.

He was a native of Bath County, born on November 16, 1910 to James H. and Monie Myers Gilvin.

He was a retired employee of maintenance division of the University of Kentucky, a member of East Union Christian Church, a Kentucky Colonel and attended the Assembly of God Church in Jeffersonville.

He was preceded in death by first wife, Nellie Campbell Gilvin.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Frances Spears Gilvin, Lexington; sons Gene B. Gilvin, Georgetown; two daughters, Mrs. Nick Thompson, Lexington and Mrs. Babby (Carolyn) Crockett, Carlisle.

Burial was in the Crown Hill Cemetery, Sharpshooter.

House
Paul House, 79, 2039 East Hill Road died Thursday, August 3, 1989 at the Johnson Matthers Nursing Home.

He was a farmer, veteran of WW II, a member of the American Legion Post #12 and the East Union Christian Church.

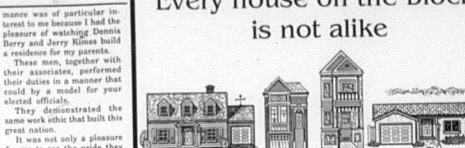
His survivors include: sister, Mrs. Julia Wasson, Bourbon County; two nephews, Charles House, Carlisle and Edwin Wasson; Bourbon County; two nieces, Mrs. Nancy Owen, Bourbon County and Mrs. Katie Swadley, Colorado; several great nieces and nephews, and a special loyal friend, Johnny Tapp.

Services were held Saturday, August 5, 1989 at the Matthers-Gaunt Funeral Home by the Rev. Charles Perry.

Casketbearers included: Clyde Ham, Matthew Kennedy, Maxwell Williams, Darringer, Fred Whaley, Earl Finch, George Garrett, and Roger Rice.

Honorary Casketbearers included: Kenneth Stephenson, Roland Boyd, John Smoot, Cliff House, Jake Carter, Jr., Allison and the members of the American Legion Post #17, Carlisle.

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