

**City of Grayson
Public Hearing
City Municipal Building
3% Restaurant Tax
February 14, 2017**

Call to Order

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. A sign in sheet was available for everyone to sign.

Roll Call

Present: Jennifer McGlone, Jack Harper, Terry Stamper, Duane Suttles.

Pam Nash was present at 4:45. Pearl Crum was present at 5:02.

Mayor Steele addressed the attendees of the public hearing. He asked for input from those in attendance if they supported a 3% Restaurant Tax to support the development of a new sports complex in the City.

Janie Sturgill, who works at Kentucky Automotive Center, spoke in favor of the tax saying it would give the kids somewhere to go and stay out of trouble.

Doug Knipp, owner of the local KFC, spoke against the tax stating that cities grow better with fewer taxes. Grayson residents have lower than average income and higher unemployment than most areas. The worse things to do during depressed times are to raise taxes. He is all for the sports complex, but thinks the money should be raised some other way other than taxation. He would like to see it privatized and would pledge \$10,000 himself to go toward the project.

Tony Dyer stated he would be glad to pay more for his meals to have a sports complex like this. He has to travel out of town to play sports, which costs him additional gas, and he is spending money in other cities for food and lodging that could be spent here.

Beth Kazee, a sports parent, is in favor of the tax, saying it is a choice to eat in restaurants. The sports complex will give the kids an opportunity to work as a team and get off the streets. She urges the city to go forward and move ahead with this.

Kyle Cordle, an employee of the jail, speaks in favor of the tax saying how kids involved in sports are less likely to do drugs. This community needs it to support the kids so they can grow and be better people in life.

Amanda Duff, a sports parent, is in favor of the facility. She has spent thousands of dollars in other towns traveling to sporting events because we don't have a sports complex. She would like to be able to spend those dollars in our town. We're investing in other towns when we should be investing in ours.

An unidentified citizen spoke in favor of the tax. She said, as a senior citizen, she wants to see this for her grandchildren. It is for our future.

Chris Huddle, local business owner, and magistrate for Carter County, speaks in favor of the tax. He has traveled all over the state to other sports parks, and all of them were paid for with taxes.

Steve Sharp, a member of the Park & Recreation Board, business owner, coach, speaks in favor of the tax. He presented the Council with articles about towns that have invested in sports complexes and how they are receiving a good financial return on their investments. Sports is an 8 billion dollar a year industry. If you build it, you will see your town grow. On short notice he got over 600 signatures from kids and teachers at only two schools. He can get thousands of signatures if needed.

Mayor Steele stated he believes the City will grow from this park. More discussion followed favoring the building of the park.

Mayor Steele closed the hearing when no one else had any comments or questions

