

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held a hearing on October 11, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. to consider possible ordinance/resolution violations by Longhorn Steakhouse located at Banks Crossing. Members present were Chairman Gene Hart and Commissioner Rickey Cain as well as County Attorney Randall Frost. To represent Longhorn Steakhouse was the owner Ernie Dye and Kevin Leff, Longhorn Steakhouse attorney. Investigator Savannah Morgan of the Georgia Department of Revenue Underage Task Force was also present.

Ch. Hart opened the hearing and stated that the purpose of the hearing was to consider the possible violation of furnishing alcohol to a minor and asked Investigator Morgan to present the violation allegations. Investigator Morgan stated that on September 13, 2007 at approximately 5:14 p.m., she and another Investigator Clay Sprayberry, who was 19 years of age, entered the restaurant and Investigator Sprayberry ordered a Bud Light. She said the server Benjiman Jahnke did not ask for identification and served Investigator Sprayberry the drink. Investigator Sprayberry paid for the drink and left the restaurant and reported the incident to the Department of Revenue Inspection Team who went into the restaurant and informed management of the incident.

Atty Leff with Sard & Leff Attorneys who represents Rare Hospitality International clarified there was no history of previous violations by Longhorn Steakhouse and the sting operation was random and not a result of customer complaints. He said the employee went against company policy by not requiring an ID before serving the alcohol. He further stated that Longhorn Steakhouse has an extensive training program for employees to help prevent such incidents from happening. He said Mr. Jahnke was terminated and that he had signed documents when he was hired stating that he had been trained concerning the alcohol servers policy.

Atty Frost clarified Investigator Sprayberry was 19 years old. Ch. Hart stated he appreciated Longhorn Steakhouse locating in the county; however the county must enforce its ordinances. He recommended placing the establishment on 6 months probation with the understanding that if any further violations occur during that time period it would result in immediate revocation of the alcohol license. Comm. Cain also expressed appreciation for the restaurant locating within Banks County but also stated violations could not be condoned.

Comm. Cain made a motion to place Longhorn Steakhouse on 6 months probation for the period of 10/15/2007 through 4/15/2008. Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried. The hearing ended at 9:16 a.m.

Chairman

Clerk
