Seneca OKs alcohol amendments

Beer and wine can be served at specific Lunney House Museum events

BY ANDREW MOORE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — City Council passed a pair of ordinance amendments Tuesday relaxing restrictions of alcohol sale and consumption at specific locations in Seneca.

The amendments passed on second reading with only one dissenting vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie O'Kelley repeated his opposition to allowing the alcohol sales on the Lunney House Museum grounds.

The new ordinance encapsulate three specific allowances. First, it allows beer and wine to be served at the Lunney for specific events with the mayor's approval. Second, it allows for alcohol to be served outdoors on Ram Cat Alley, specifically for the Jazz On The Alley, which is held each Thursday in August. Finally, it eases the previous encroachment ordinances to allow businesses with proper business and ABC licenses to serve food, beer and wine on tables outside for al fresco dining on an event-by-event basis.

"I felt like the Lunney House just wasn't the place to serve alcohol," O'Kelley said.

"I have no problem with serving it in the streets for Jazz On The Alley, but I know some folks who actually knew the Lunneys who tell me they wouldn't be thrilled with it being served in their home."

After speaking with the city of Greenville to discuss its alcohol ordinances, an insurance carrier and an ABC South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) agent, City Attorney Michael Smith recommended tweaking the ordinances to restrict the alcohol sales to beer and wine, with no liquor being allowed. It would also prohibit service of alcohol to anyone not sitting at a table outside; meaning a person at the outdoor Jazz event could not simply walk up, order alcohol and leave with it.

O'Kelley recommended that the Lunney and Jazz On The Alley ordinances for alcohol allowance be separated, but that motion was defeated by a single-vote margin last Tuesday.

andrew@dailyjm.com | (864) 973-5684