

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING
OF THE EUFAULA CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023**

The Eufaula City Council met in a special-called session on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 5:15 p.m. in the police department courtroom at 545 East Barbour Street. Council President Register called the meeting to order.

Upon call of the roll the following members were present: Council President Wes Register, President Pro Tem Otis Hill, Councilman Ben Garrison, and Councilman John Robinson. Absent: Councilman Marvin Brown.

Also present: Mayor Jack Tibbs, Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer and City Attorney Joel Smith.

President Register stated that the purpose of the special-called session was for the possible revocation of the business license for the Split Shot Saloon, and the possible revocation of the beer, wine, and liquor license for the Split Shot Saloon. He noted that that there have been multiple incidents that have occurred at the establishment over the last couple of years.

Chief Steve Watkins reported that approximately 86 incidents have occurred at the Split Shot Saloon between May 15, 2019 and January 15, 2023 involving the Split Shot Saloon and the adjoining apartments. Various incidents at the Split Shot Saloon bar resulting in calls to the police department include public intoxication, domestic violence, physical altercations, criminal mischief, etc.

Ms. Joanna Benefield, lessee of the Split Shot Saloon bar, was allowed to come forward to address the Council. Ms. Benefield stated that she obtained a license in July 2021 and opened the establishment in October 2021 noting that many of the incidents reported occurred prior to her leasing the Split Shot Saloon bar from Mr. Billy Benefield. Mr. Billy Benefield is the current owner of the Split Shot Saloon property and owner of the adjoining apartments and not a current paid employee of her business although she leases the bar from him. Mr. Billy Benefield handles the day-to-day transactions of the establishment to include stocking, vendors, etc. There was also a discussion of potentially implementing better safety measures for the protection of every patron at the bar.

PUBLIC HEARING

President Register introduced Resolution 5-2023 (To Revoke the Business License of Split Shot Saloon, LLC). President Pro Tem Hill offered a motion to adopt Resolution 5-2023 (To Revoke the Business License of Split Shot Saloon, LLC). Councilman Garrison seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Yeas: Councilman Robinson, Councilman Garrison, President Pro Tem Hill, and President Register. Nays: None. President Register announced that Resolution 5-2023 was adopted.

**RESOLUTION
5-2023**

**A RESOLUTION TO REVOKE THE BUSINESS LICENSE
OF SPLIT SHOT SALOON, LLC**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Eufaula has authorized and approved the issuance of business licenses in the City of Eufaula; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 24 of Ordinance 2007-19, should any person be found to be operating any business in such a manner as to be detrimental to public morals or health, or so as to constitute a nuisance, the City Council shall have the right to revoke the license of any such business; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eufaula has previously issued business license number 2022-1649 to Split Shot Saloon, LLC for operation of a bar at 2842 S. Eufaula Avenue within the city limits; and

WHEREAS, since September, 2021, the Eufaula Police Department has been dispatched to the premises for various disturbances; and

WHEREAS, on or about January 14, 2023, an employee or agent of Split Shot Saloon is alleged to have provoked, fought with, and shot an individual in the back of the head at said establishment and has been placed under arrest for attempted murder in connection with said incident; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a special meeting and public hearing on January 31, 2023, to consider revocation of the business license previously issued to Split Shot Saloon, LLC on the grounds that said business is being operated in such a manner as to be detrimental to public morals or health, or so as to constitute a nuisance; and

WHEREAS, Joanna Benefield, owner/agent of Split Shot Saloon, LLC, was provided at least ten (10) days' notice of the time, place, and purpose of the special meeting and public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held the public hearing at which evidence of the shooting incident that occurred on or about January 14, 2023, was presented, as well as evidence of police dispatches to the establishment for other disturbances such as domestic violence, theft, public intoxication, fighting and criminal mischief, assault and menacing, harassing communications; and

WHEREAS, all persons present at the public hearing were given the opportunity to speak and comment on the proposed revocation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the evidence presented at the public hearing and finds that the Split Shot Saloon is being operated in such a manner as to be detrimental to public morals or health, or so as to constitute a nuisance, and accordingly, the City Council desires to revoke the business license for said establishment previously issued to Split Shot Saloon, LLC.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Eufaula, Alabama, that business license number 2022-1649 previously issued to Split Shot Saloon, LLC, is due to be, and is hereby, revoked, and the City Clerk is instructed to promptly notify licensee, Split Shot Saloon, LLC, of said revocation.

Adopted this 31st day of January, 2023.

**CITY OF EUFAULA, ALABAMA
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

Wes Register, CMO
City Council President

ATTEST:

Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer

President Register introduced Resolution 6-2023 (To Revoke the City of Eufaula's Consent to Beer, Wine, and Liquor Licenses for Split Shot Saloon). Councilman Robinson offered a motion to adopt Resolution 6-2023 (To Revoke the City of Eufaula's Consent to Beer, Wine, and Liquor Licenses for Split Shot Saloon). President Pro Tem Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Yeas: Councilman Robinson, Councilman Garrison, President Pro Tem Hill, and President Register. Nays: None. President Register announced that Resolution 6-2023 was adopted.

**RESOLUTION
6-2023**

**A RESOLUTION TO REVOKE THE CITY OF EUFAULA'S CONSENT TO BEER,
WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSES FOR SPLIT SHOT SALOON**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Eufaula has previously consented to the issuance by the Alcohol Beverage Control Board of the State of Alabama (the "ABC Board") of beer, wine, and liquor licenses to Split Shot Saloon, LLC for the establishment known as Split Shot Saloon located at 2842 S. Eufaula Avenue within the city limits of the City of Eufaula; and

WHEREAS, since September, 2021, the Eufaula Police Department has been dispatched to the premises for various disturbances; and

WHEREAS, on or about January 14, 2023, an employee or agent of Split Shot Saloon is alleged to have provoked, fought with, and shot an individual in the back of the head at said

establishment and has been placed under arrest for attempted murder in connection with said incident; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a special meeting and public hearing on January 31, 2023, to consider revocation of the business license previously issued to Split Shot Saloon, LLC and revocation of the City's consent to the issuance of beer, wine, and liquor licenses by the ABC Board for said business on the grounds that it is being operated in such a manner as to be detrimental to public morals or health, or so as to constitute a nuisance; and

WHEREAS, Joanna Benefield, owner/agent of Split Shot Saloon, LLC, was provided at least ten (10) days' notice of the time, place, and purpose of the special meeting and public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held the public hearing at which evidence of the shooting incident that occurred on or about January 14, 2023, was presented, as well as evidence of police dispatches for other disturbances such as dispatches for other disturbances such as domestic violence, theft, public intoxication, fighting and criminal mischief, assault and menacing, and harassing communications; and

WHEREAS, all persons present at the public hearing were given the opportunity to speak and comment on the proposed revocation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the evidence presented at the public hearing and finds that the Split Shot Saloon is being operated in such a manner as to be detrimental to public morals or health, or so as to constitute a nuisance, and accordingly, the City Council objects to, and desires to revoke its consent to, the beer, wine, and liquor licenses for said establishment previously issued by the ABC Board to Split Shot Saloon, LLC.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Eufaula, Alabama, that the City Council of the City of Eufaula objects to any beer, wine, and liquor licenses issued to Split Shot Saloon, LLC and any renewals thereof, and hereby revokes its consent to the issuance thereof by the ABC Board. The City Clerk is hereby instructed to notify licensee, Split Shot Saloon, LLC, and the ABC Board of said revocation of consent and objection to said licenses.

Adopted this 31st day of January, 2023.

**CITY OF EUFAULA, ALABAMA
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

Wes Register, CMO
City Council President

ATTEST:

Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the same was on motion by Councilman Garrison, and duly seconded by Councilman Robinson, adjourned this 31st day of January, 2023.

CITY OF EUFAULA, ALABAMA
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Wes Register, CMO
City Council President

ATTEST:

Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer