Written by Marty Randall
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People crowded into the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Courthouse on Wednesday morning, September 26, to voice their opinions about a request for a beer and wine sales license made by Dollar General Corporation Inc.

But no one got to speak, either for or against the application.

That's because Lonnie Gibson, Master Officer with the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, announced early on that the applicant would not appear that morning and had requested a continuance.

Several ministers were present and one, Pastor Steve Gwaltney of Grace Covenant Church of God in Austin, was accompanied by an attorney with IceMiller L.L.P., a legal firm located in Indianapolis. Representatives from other groups, including Scott School District 1, Chief Donald Spicer of the Austin Police Department, Sheriff Dan McClain of the Sheriff's Department and CEASe of Scott County. CEASe is the local organization which battles against drug abuse.

The uproar is over Dollar General Corporation requesting a license from the local Alcoholic Beverage Board of Scott County so that its Austin and Scottsburg stores can sell beer and wine to customers. The Austin store is located on U.S. Highway 31 South, right across from Scott District 1 property. The Scottsburg store is located on U.S. 31 North, commonly known as Gardner Street.

From a brief glimpse at one of the lists of people's names attending the meeting, nearly all who had signed checked the AGAINST box on the form.

It was announced shortly after that the hearing was rescheduled for 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 28.

Master Officer Gibson stated that any applicant may request as many as three continuances of a scheduled hearing. He noted that the rescheduled hearing will again be held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Courthouse in downtown Scottsburg.

Several persons who attended on September 26 indicated that they would make plans to be there on November 28. "I do not want to see this happen in our community," commented one woman.