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COCO WALTERS/St. Joseph News-Press

Bob Leisman, owner of Rock Port Market in downtown Rock Port, talks with customers Juanita Guerra, and her brother Nate Washington, on Wednesday afternoon as they stopped in for some groceries.

# Rock Port grocery owners may challenge how TIF was passed

By RAY SCHERER  
St. Joseph News-Press

The owners of a Rock Port, Mo., grocery are considering legal action on methods used to pass a tax-increment financing proposal for a new supermarket.

There are no pending inquiries on file concerning alleged Sunshine Law violations against city officials, said Tom Durkin, public education direc-

tor for Attorney General Chris Koster.

"I'm in a holding pattern until I speak to my attorney," said Matthew Leisman of Rock Port Market, when asked Monday whether a Sunshine Law complaint may still be filed. The market is currently the city's only grocery.

A group of developers is looking to establish a new 10,000-square-foot grocery in Rock Port. In

early June, a tax-increment financing board unanimously approved a \$175,000 request in TIF financing for the project.

The Leisman family has said that a May meeting of the Rock Port Board of Aldermen to discuss the TIF was held one day earlier than the date that the city had publicized. The Leismans have owned grocery stores in Atchison County since 1932. They have said the TIF

will offer an unfair advantage to the new store, which is slated to be built at the intersection of U.S. Highway 136 and Missouri Highway 111.

The Atchison County Commission unanimously approved the proposal June 18. The vote followed a lengthy discussion, said Presiding Commissioner Marlin Logan.

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