

Special Events Committee
July 8, 2015

The meeting was called order by Chairman Guy Stacy and the secretary called the roll.

Present: Guy Stacy, Jason Kaufman, Maria Radosta, Chris Freret, Asst. Chief Ron Ruple, Fire Chief Rick Tassin

Absent: None

Also Present: Council Members Ernest Burguieres, David Ellis, and Mayor Donald Villere

Mr. Stacy announced the meeting would be a discussion of the proposed recommendation to the City Council regarding Ordinance 15-12. This was the second scheduled meeting. There was so much information received, the board was holding the work session to discuss the list with a final meeting on July 13th to approve the recommendations in a resolution. The meeting provided the board an opportunity to look at the processes, existing ordinance and applications. There were some shortcomings and the board wanted to update the ordinance.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE ORDINANCE FROM JULY 2ND MEETING

1. Parking

Possible creation of new Section 10.65 in Code of Ordinance for prohibition of any parking on the grass south of the curb of Lakeshore Drive where posted with enforcement.

2. Vehicles Riding/Parking on Green Space

Vehicle should not be allowed on the green lakefront. There was a request to add a section to prohibit any parking on the grass south of the curb with associated fines. The new signs included no parking on grass. One event was noted having vehicles on the lakefront. Mr. Burguieres asked about parking on the grass on the north side of Lakeshore Drive since there was not much parking. There was a servitude between the sidewalk and the street. Mr. Burguieres asked to include it, but Mr. Stacy was not in favor. Mr. Kaufman said the fire safety was near the corners turning the truck. Mr. Stacy felt it was a police issue and Asst. Chief Ruple said they marked the corners back 25'. Mr. Kaufman said that was a sufficient distance. Asst. Chief Ruple said he could enforce it without marking the corners because of the state law but marking them allows the people to know the distance. Mayor Villere asked Mr. Kaufman to survey the streets with the largest problems.

Mr. Stacy presented pictures from two recent events showing the abuses on the south side of Lakeshore Drive. There was a series of family tents with cars and trucks pulled up next to them. There was also a party rental and a beer truck. Mayor Villere proposed a police detail for large events for immediate action. The Police Department would determine the number of police officers needed. It would be required to be a direct detail with the Police Department.

3. Number of Trips by Cars/Trucks Setting up an Event and Causing Damage

Mr. Stacy said there were complaints about the number of trips being made across the lakefront. Some of the vehicles were as small as golf carts, but they would cause the same amount of damage. If there was a stage they needed to provide a vehicle for one trip for delivery, and to protect the tree roots.

4. No Blocking of Parking Spaces prior to the day of the event

Pictures were shown blocking the south side of Lakeshore Drive on the day of the event. The picture also showed that parking on the grass on the inside of the barricade. Asst. Chief Ruple suggested not allowing barricades anywhere. If there were no barricades, the police would not have their time taken away to set up and take away. He said most festivals provided designated parking spaces were for the band and caterers on the day of the event. He could deliver the

trailer and have the event set up and take down. Chief Tassin suggested dropping off 10 barricades and have them returned to the same spot. Mr. Stacy said he had a problem with blocking off 3 blocks of space. Mayor Villere said the band, drinks and food did not get delivered until the morning of July 4th for that event.

Mr. Stacy asked if there was a problem with this language. Mr. Freret asked for an hour time. His event closed the harbor road at dark. Asst. Chief Ruple said there were signs on the lakefront stating there was no parking after 2 a.m. Mayor Villere said with the posted signage, the barricades could be set up at 6 a.m. and if there were cars parked before that time the police could tow them. Asst. Chief Ruple said the signage was at the beginning of the harbor. Mr. Freret said their event did not block off any parking spaces on Lakeshore Drive until 9 a.m. Asst. Chief Ruple suggested amending the application to state if closing the street the police and residents needed to be noticed ahead of time for police to control and to let people get to their houses.

5. Create Coffee and Carroll Streets as temporary one day one-way directions on festival days

There were complaints about people leaving at the same time and causing problems getting down side streets. Asst. Chief Ruple said signage would be difficult and could be unenforceable.

6. Port-A-Let Removal

There was a stark realization of potential problems with events having port-a-lets on site for four days. The proposal would be a fine up to \$500 per port-a-let per day. Chief Tassin said they would not be picked up on Sunday. Asst. Chief Ruple asked who would be the responsible party if they were not removed. In Mayor's Court there was a problem with who was the responsible party. Mr. Burguieres said in the case of the Family Reunion they were a non-entity and the City was a co-sponsor. Asst. Chief Ruple suggested if not removed that the Public Works Department pick it up on Monday and the provider would have to pay the fine to get them back. The application could outline who would be the responsible party. Mr. Freret asked to make a list of unapproved vendors. He said that most companies will deliver on Saturday and pick up on Monday. If it was a rainy time, the City would not want them picked up and creating ruts.

7. Festival Stage Location – Set Up Not As Approved

8. Set up of Stage and Speakers Facing South, East or West away from the residences

If live music faced away from the residences, it would not seem to be a problem. Mr. Burguieres said east/west was still a problem. On the east side it was too loud, but facing west would be agreeable. His requests have been facing south.

9. Time limits on band performance to end at Sunset or extension by Council approval

10. Time limits on amount of hours band(s) can perform – 6 hour maximum

Mr. Freret said Crawfish Cookin for a Cause had some music all day with it facing southeast. There was no complaint about noise or trash. If there was trash left there should be a fine. He suggested grading the site on cleanup. Chief Tassin asked if it was a city event who would pay the fine.

Mr. Freret said on the 4th of July, the music went past sunset. Mr. Burguieres suggested restricting the areas by the residences to sunset and later in the B-3 area.

16. Trash clean up on neighboring streets – consider an upfront clean up fee

Mr. Stacy said he thought about a cleanup fee of around \$500. He asked if we would hold it for next year. Mayor Villere said the funds would be returned. Mr. Stacy said most non-profits did not have funds until the festival. Mayor Villere said one organization paid \$2,000 to rent a stage so they could afford it. Mr. Freret said there was a concern that the fee could be encouraging no cleanup at all. Mr. Ellis suggested creating a tier by the number of people in attendance. Chief Tassin said the dog parade was huge and had more of an impact with the number of people. The businesses complained about the people attending using the restrooms and not buying anything.

Mr. Burguieres asked about the responsible party. It was answered that it was included on the application. Chief Tassin said group's cleanup their area, but it was hard to be responsible as people were leaving. Mr. Freret asked about the \$500 fine per day. Mayor Villere said that was the existing fine of per day per occurrence. Mr. Burguieres said enforcement was always a problem. Ms. Radosta said if it was too much of a problem then the group could decide not put on the event the next year. Mr. Stacy said the board reviewed prior events before the approval of a new event.

Asst. Chief Ruple used the dog parade as an example. The parade began at the harbor to the end at the gazebo with the lakefront full of people. There was trash from one end to the other. The change would be requiring people putting on the event to clean up the lakefront and the side streets. If he was that event organizer, he would be asking why they would be treated different than the parades. Mayor Villere said the information was noted to the Council for approval of costs. Asst. Chief Ruple said the trustees were cleaning the City all night. Mr. Ellis said he thought the purpose was limiting event to the four areas. Mr. Stacy said all four spots were used. Chief Tassin asked how much cleanup was there after the Christmas parade. Mr. Stacy also stated that Denise Gutnisky would no longer be putting on the dog parade and Children's Hospital would become the responsible party.

17. Amend permit fees races and general permit applications to remain at \$25, increase Fairs/Festivals and Parades to \$100

Chief Tassin asked about the blessing and lighting of the cemetery. Mr. Stacy said it was off site of the lakefront and could continue.

18. Should weddings on the lakefront be required to submit an application with a \$25 permit fee? They should also comply with no parking or driving on the grass

The number of weddings had increased on the lakefront and were getting bigger. They were not covered under the ordinance. At this time, Marlene Peachey, the Mayor's assistant, would reserve a location and time on the calendar. Mayor Villere said sizes were growing with chair setup and decorations. They were told that they could not have a reception on the lakefront since it was not a special event but a private party. Most birthday parties were held in the park behind City Hall. Crawfish Cookin was the only event that had an admission fee and a fence was allowed. Races would be allowed continued use of the harbor park. Everyone was in agreement to require a detail officer to make sure the event was following the rules.

There was a discussion about determining the minimum limit for a detailed officer. Asst. Chief Ruple agreed with a permit fee and he could make a determination on the number of officers. If there were six people for 25 minutes there was no need for an officer. Mr. Kaufmann said the size would depend on the need for a fee. Asst. Chief Ruple said to make that determination would require a review of an application. Ms. Spranley asked about the Mayor's office retaining the approval with a copy to the police department.