

City forms events review committee

Manpower costs, traffic congestion cited as reason for committee

The City of Lake Ozark now has a committee to help monitor the myriad of events now taking place within the city.

The board of aldermen voted Tuesday night to create a Special Event Review Committee to examine each special event application to make sure it meets city specifications. The next major event that falls under the new permit process is the St. Patrick's Parade in March.

The decision is an outgrowth of concerns that have arisen during special events not only this year but in previous years. This year was especially challenging, city officials say, because some events that normally take place in the spring were delayed until fall when other events were already scheduled.

These include:

- Overtime costs incurred by Lake Ozark Police Department and Public Works employees during the events.

- Traffic flow. Different events require different levels of involvement by LOPD and Public Works employees. Bagnell Dam Blvd. is sometimes closed to traffic; traffic lanes are sometimes restricted, causing traffic delays; general traffic is often re-routed because of the events.

- Event permit applications are sometimes not completed or are not completed accurately.

- Abuse of the Open Container law.

"Each applicant is different and the committee would be tasked with making sure all of the viewpoints are examined," Mayor Gerry Murawski said.

Lake Ozark Police Chief Gary Lauderdale told the board of aldermen recently that through Sept. 29 his department had spent more than \$22,000 on straight time and overtime for special events only. He expected that to grow to about \$25,000



Events such as Bikefest will now be reviewed by a Special Events Review Committee which will make a recommendation to the board of aldermen for final approval.

by year's end with several smaller events and the annual Christmas Parade in early December yet to come.

"I understand this is a tourist community and it's going to cost us," he said. "The money is one thing, but the strain on the staff keeps getting bigger and bigger and bigger and we don't have the manpower. I think it's time we start thinking about requiring some of these events to supply their own people."

He said that for Bikefest, for example, all of his department was devoted to The Strip for hours along with help from Public Works employees. LOPD officers typically spend most of their time handling traffic control, or just having a presence on The Strip.

Committee

The committee will be comprised of the Chief of Police or designee, Public Works director or designee, City Administrator or designee, four mayoral appointees including retail business owners and city residents. The Lake Area Chamber of Commerce executive director and the Bagnell Dam Strip Association representative will be invited to participate in a non-voting capacity.

After review of each Special Event application, the committee would make a recommendation to the board of aldermen which has final authority.

The committee will consider each of seven factors outlined by the Municipal Code when reviewing the Special Event

applications. These are:

- The proposed special event is appropriate for the size and use for which the requested location has been established or designated.

- The proposed special event will not interfere with a previously permitted special event or previously approved construction or maintenance work.

- The proposed special event will not substantially or unnecessarily interfere with traffic in the area contiguous to the special event, or that, if the activity will substantially interfere with traffic, there will be sufficient City resources available at the time to mitigate the disruption.

- The applicant has complied with the application requirements, including but not limited to permit fees, cost recovery, insurance and indemnification requirements where applicable.

- The application is complete and does not contain misrepresentations of fact.

- The concentration of persons, animals, and vehicles at public assembly points of the special event or during a continuous procession will not unduly interfere with property, fire and police protection of, or ambulance service to, areas contiguous to such public assembly or processional areas.

- Adequate sanitation and other required health facilities are or will be made available in or adjacent to any public assembly areas.