

City of Elko)
County of Elko)
State of Nevada)

SS August 17, 2011

The City Council of the City of Elko, State of Nevada met for a special meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 17, 2011.

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Chris J. Johnson.

Mayor Present: Chris J. Johnson

Council Present: Councilman Jim Conner
Councilman Jay Elquist
Councilman John Rice

Council Absent: Councilman Perry

City Staff Present: Curtis Calder, City Manager
Delmo Andreozzi, Assistant City Manager
Shanell Owen, City Clerk
Don Zumwalt, Police Chief
Dennis Strickland, Public Works Director
Jeremy Draper, Civil Engineer
Linda Buffington, Recording Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Review and possible approval of a request by the Elko Lion's Club to change the route for the Elko County Fair Parade to be held on September 2, 2011, and matters related thereto. **PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE TAKEN PRIOR TO ANY CITY COUNCIL ACTION: FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Due to the construction of Idaho Street the Lion's Club is requesting a change to the parade route. SO

Assistant City Manager Andreozzi advised this is the annual fair parade the Lion's Club assists with. Staff had concerns in trying to facilitate the normal parade route due to the Idaho Street Project so during the approval process alternate routes were considered.

Mr. Andreozzi referred to an overhead presentation which showed the standard route and the proposed route which would cross Idaho Street at Fourth Street; keeping the entire parade route completely and totally out of the construction zone. Mr. Andreozzi clarified the proposed route;

- Cross Idaho at Fourth Street, and go to Court Street

- Court Street to 9th Street
- 9th Street up to College Avenue
- College Avenue over to tie back in to the normal parade route at 12th & 13th Streets

Mr. Andreozzi indicated in regard to turns; the proposed route is similar to the standard route; it may have one more turn. The turns are where we need to have emergency vehicles and police department to help with traffic control. The other difference is there are a few more houses along the proposed route. However, Staff did ask the Lion's Club to canvas those areas to notify the residents the best way possible to see if there is any opposition. Mr. Andreozzi advised along College Avenue there is some residential area but we do have the big grassy hill which might be a good location for spectators.

Mr. Andreozzi advised Staff wanted to bring this to Council's attention now rather than wait until the next meeting on September 2nd; in the event it was approved it would allow sufficient time to get the information out to the public for comment.

Jim Winer, Lion's Club Parade Lineup Chairman, informed the Council that he and City Staff drove various routes and came up with what they believed were a couple of alternatives. The proposed route shown on the map seemed the best for the lineup portion as it stays in the same place everyone is used to down in the corridor.

Mr. Winer advised Mike Murphy with NDOT has reviewed the parade permit and signed off. The proposed route actually uses less NDOT than the standard route, only touching it twice; once on 5th Street, which it always does, and again on Idaho Street as it crosses over 4th Street.

Mr. Winer noted the application has been signed by the various city departments; the one opposition was the Police Chief and that had to do with the safety of the new route.

Mr. Winer informed the Council there were twenty-one homes along the route; he went door to door with the agenda notice and the map. He probably met with ten to twelve people, one-on-one; gave them the agenda and encouraged them to come and speak for or against the proposed route. If they felt they couldn't come he encouraged to at least call and express their opinion. Mr. Winer indicated most people along the route were supportive; the only opposition he received was from a lady that lived across from the high school.

Councilman Conner questioned where the reviewing stands would be; in back of the court house?

Mr. Winer advised the county has agreed to the proposed site; it will be on Court Street next to the Nannini Complex.

Mr. Winer noted there are a lot of open areas along the proposed route; the grassy knoll along the high school and all the grass across from the main court house as well as the concrete areas around the court house.

Mayor Johnson called for further comment.

Douglas Thomsen, Court Street resident, came forward to express concern over the proposed route. It will generate a lot of spectators who will set up chairs on their lawn; there is no way to keep them off. There is going to be a problem with trash and other issues that develop from spectator turnout. Mr. Thomsen believed the parade was going to cause problems for all the residents on the north side of Court Street; between 8th and the court house.

Mr. Thomsen commented the route along College Avenue will affect a large number of residents as well and it doesn't look like any of those show on the map.

Mr. Thomsen thought it was a little disingenuous for the City Council to have had this meeting at 8:30 on a Wednesday morning when nobody could show up to talk about it. Mr. Thomsen acknowledged that Mr. Winer had given him the information sheet and objects to the proposed route.

Mayor Johnson questioned the policy regarding a parade and any trash left behind.

Mr. Andreozzi advised street sweepers follow the parade and we try our best to get all of it; to the best of our ability. The issue with the Idaho Street route is once the parade is over there is heavy traffic immediately using the street again; making it difficult to go curb to go from curb. Mr. Andreozzi believed we can do a better job sweeping on Court Street because there will not be that volume of traffic.

Mr. Andreozzi referred to Mr. Thomsen's concerns; Staff could put out cones to block parking in front of the homes but that doesn't address the concern of people putting chairs on the lawn.

Mayor Johnson questioned what a private property owner can do if they are concerned with damage to their lawn. If they don't have a fence should caution tape be put up? Is there some remedy to minimize the effect on the private property owner?

Mr. Andreozzi suggested the use of cones with no parking tape.

Mayor Johnson clarified Mr. Thomsen is more concerned with people coming onto his lawn.

Mr. Thomsen stated parking isn't the issue because the cross streets will have been blocked off; there won't be any parking on Court Street. The issue is the people that will congregate along the sidewalk and public areas along Court Street; particularly the block where his house is located.

Councilman Elquist commented it is the owner's property, if he doesn't want them on there he is entitled to hang signs.

Mr. Thompson didn't believe it was appropriate that he should pay the cost to put up barricades to keep people off his lawn because the City decided to use that route for a parade. Mr. Thomsen questioned the council if they would like to have the parade route by their house; assuming they have a substantial amount of lawn to protect; did they want people parking themselves in front of their homes?

Councilman Elquist believed it was case by case; a lot of people don't mind and some will.

Councilman Elquist questioned whether a parade route was possible around the corridor; keep all the traffic and people in the downtown area; which is good for the businesses.

Councilman Elquist stated he did not discount the impact but at the same time; it is a public event that impacts businesses when we do the other route. Councilman Elquist believed City Staff could get some signs out that say "private property, keep off".

Mayor Johnson questioned Mr. Winer on whether the concerns could be alleviated with barricades or caution tape and was the parade route suggested by Councilman Elquist a good idea.

Mr. Winer advised whatever route is chosen the Lion's Club is going to have to work closely with all the local media to do PSA's to get the word out. Within the tone of the PSA they can tell people to please be courteous of the neighbors, their yards and their property. That doesn't guarantee the people will do it. Mr. Winer indicated that for anyone that doesn't have a fenced yard he would personally go to the home and volunteer to pay for "keep off grass" signs and lath sticks to try to minimize people being inconsiderate of other people's private property. If the homeowner allows; he will pound them into the ground at the cement every ten feet. If not, the lath will be given to the homeowner and they can do it themselves. Again, no guarantee, someone is not going to ignore that and/or knock it down.

Mr. Winer commented the route suggested by Councilman Elquist had been considered. It gets to be a logistical issue because typically to line a parade up it takes all of the area there from 6th Street to 11th Street and all the side streets. We are lining the parade up in the corridor and each side street. During the lineup it gets very chaotic and it would be too congested with the inter-mingling of people who are going to watch the parade. Mr. Winer also believed, logistically, there were some safety issues doing that when you cross Idaho Street.

Councilman Elquist advised not crossing Idaho Street; just do a loop around the corridor.

Mr. Winer advised the parade needs to end at the fairgrounds.

Councilman Conner questioned if Staff could block off the residential portion of Court Street from 7th to 8th?

Councilman Elquist questioned Mr. Thomsen if the Lion's Club runs barricade tape with stakes and puts signs up; would that accommodate him.

Mr. Thomsen indicated it would. Mr. Thomsen then suggested advertising the high school lawn as an observation point.

Mr. Winder advised the intent of the PSA's is to tell people where the route is and where the best viewing locations are.

Mr. Thomsen identified other areas along the route that could be used for spectators including the areas along Court Street that would not have to involve the north side of Court Street.

Mr. Winer noted Mr. Thomsen's property would be in full sun; most people gravitate towards the shade.

Councilman Elquist questioned if the Council approved this; with the condition the Lion's Club address residents who are concerned about parade watchers on their grass; that you will put up a barricade of some type.

Mr. Winer advised if the Council puts specific direction that not address their concern but; approach and offer to accommodate with lath sticks, yellow tape and/or keep off grass signs.

Councilman Rice believed the City had sufficient tape and cones the Lion's Club could use; there is no extra expense for the club and minimal expense to the City.

**** A motion was made by Councilman Elquist to approve the request by the Elko Lion's Club to change the route for the Elko County Fair Parade to be held on September 2, 2011; with the condition they approach all the residences without fences and put up a barricade to discourage the parade watchers from setting up on the grass.**

After the motion Mayor Johnson commented utilizing the PSA's for the optimum viewing area could be added.

**** Councilman Elquist amended the motion to include; and utilize the PSA's to encourage the optimum viewing area.**

Councilman Rice noted the Lion's Club has already approached every resident; he suggested the motion include; any resident that contacts the Lion's Club between now and the parade.

Mayor Johnson clarified the motion, without a second; to approve the parade route with the Lion's Club to minimize the impact with folks that have no fences to keep folks off those areas and then also to utilize the PSA's for where the optimum viewing areas are.

**** Councilman Conner seconded the motion.**

Councilman Elquist advised Mr. Winer the City likely had barricades that could be used; if not they would have to locate some.

Mr. Andreozzi verified the City has candle cones and caution tape.

Mayor Johnson believed Q&D Construction would be a good source.

Mr. Andreozzi advised Staff has been able to accommodate all the parades; because of the construction this is the one we couldn't.

Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Mayor Chris J. Johnson adjourned the meeting.

Mayor Chris J. Johnson

Shanell Owen, City Clerk