

STOREY COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 24th, 2008 2:00 P.M.

DISTRICT COURTROOM
26 SOUTH B STREET, VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA

SPECIAL MINUTES

GREG "BUM" HESS
CHAIRMAN

HAROLD SWAFFORD
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

BOB KERSHAW
VICE-CHAIRMAN

JAMES G. MILLER
SHERIFF

JOHN FLANAGAN
COMMISSIONER

VANESSA DIXON
CLERK-TREASURER

Roll Call.

Present: Chairman Greg Hess, ClerkTreasurer Vanessa Dixon, Commissioner John Flanagan, Comptroller Hugh Gallagher, County Manager Pat Whitten, District Attorney Harold Swafford, Emergency Management Director Joe Curtis, Sheriff James Miller, ViceChairman Bob Kershaw, Lieutenant Chris Parsons, Division Chief Eric Guevin.

CALL TO ORDER AT 2:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 2:00 p.m

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Hess led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Virginia City resident, PatriciaSeymour, spoke against the proposed Dapper's Memorial Day Motorcycle Run, stating her concerns about too many people in town, not enough parking, and fire danger.

CONSENT AGENDA

(All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered routine, and may be acted upon by the Board of County Commissioners with one action, and without an extensive hearing. Any member of the Board or any citizen may request that an item be taken from the consent agenda, discussed, and acted upon separately during this meeting. The Commission Chair reserves the right to limit the time allotted for each individual to speak).

Approval of Agenda for April 24th, 2008

Chairman Hess requested the agenda date be corrected to read Thursday, April 24, 2008 instead of Tuesday, April 24, 2008.

Motion: Corrections to agenda date change Action: Approve, Moved by Vice-Chairman Bob Kershaw, Seconded by Commissioner John Flanagan.
Chairman Hess then called for any further discussion.

Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 2).

Yes: Chairman John Flanagan, and Vice-Chairman Bob Kershaw.

Correspondence

Chairman Hess stated that correspondence received would be discussed under the agenda item.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Consent Agenda, Action: Approve, Moved by Vice-Chairman Bob Kershaw, Seconded by Commissioner John Flanagan.

Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 2).

Yes: Chairman John Flanagan, and Vice-Chairman Bob Kershaw.

~~DISCUSSION/ACTION~~ Special Event: Dapper's Memorial Day Run 2008 May 23-26, 2008

Chairman Hess stated that the Board has received many letters, most of them against the event. He added that the biggest concerns are camping and the event overlapping with Memorial Day. Chairman Hess stated there are too many letters to read, possibly 8-10 total.

Sheriff Miller and Commissioner Flanagan stated that they have received several phone calls against the event.

Vice-Chairman Kershaw advised the Board that he has spoken with some of his friends whom are familiar with Mr. Norby and they all had positive things to say about him and his events.

Sheriff Miller stated that Mr. Norby was given the packet for permission to hold a special event last summer. He added that if approved security needs to be addressed, music should end at 9:00, and no camping because of fire and residences. Sheriff Miller further stated that the County should be reimbursed for the extra law enforcement cost that could range \$6,000.00- \$8,000.00.

Vice-Chairman Kershaw stated that the main concerns in the letters are Memorial Weekend, traffic control, and resources. Many people are concerned that families visiting the cemetery maybe affected.

Mr. Whitten stated that he would like to be able to track costs to the county for events.

Chairman Hess then opened the floor for public comment.

Cathy Lee James read a letter into the record opposing the event. The letter stated that she is not against the event itself but the fact that it would be held on Memorial Day weekend

Jett Aguilar commented on the lack of business in town and is for bringing more people up here.

Barbara Smith, a Virginia City resident, agreed that the town needs more business but feels that this event might not bring the right kind of people. She is concerned about the biker's behavior, the amount of people already here on Memorial Day weekend and that families with children may not want to stay here during the event.

Mark Joseph Phillips asked if The Frye Brothers Band have ever caused a problem. He questioned the late date of the special meeting and asked if this could have been handled in a timelier manner.

Sheriff Miller responded that it was Mr. Norby's responsibility to get the paperwork submitted earlier.

Linda Del Carlo stated that we need more business in town. She is concerned that camping and fires could be a problem, but supports bringing people to town.

Joe Curtis stated that he has concerns about the event. He feels that people are intimidated by bikers and that many bikers have the attitude that they can disrespect the residents of Virginia City and the historical aspects of the town. He added that camping is a problem and feels that the "Body Contest" will turn into a topless event. He stated that the event gives the wrong image to our family oriented town and that it could turn into the "Sturgis" of the west.

Suzanne Morgan, Dan Norby's partner, addressed some concerns about the event. She stated that there would be a 24 hour camp host, sani- huts, and that the music would end at 9-10 p.m. She added that bikers do bring money to the

community. She commented that many bikers are veterans and would be respectful of the Memorial Day festivities.

Eric Pierson commented that some people may have a misconception on what bikers are. He referred to the Grand Prix event this coming weekend as being a similar event. He stated that it is a good event and that the town only has to put up with a few during the year.

Angelo Petrini, Virginia City resident and businessman, stated that he was not for or against the event. He spoke of the fact that communities in surrounding areas have put their dollars towards special events to bring more people to their towns. He also pointed out that the Dapper's event is on Saturday and Sunday and should not interfere with Monday's festivities. He added that bikers have not been a problem recently as they were in the past. Mr. Petrini recommended that acceptance of the event should not be based on whether or not bikers are involved. He stated that different events help different types of businesses in town and that with the right sanctions we shouldn't close the door on any event.

Char Bouvier, Ramada Hotel general manager, addressed issues concerning parking and camping. Ms. Bouvier advised that most of the campers will be in RVs not tents, the camping area will have very strict rules and that most people will be leaving Sunday night. She stated that the trolley will be running to take bikers from the campground to town and that most of the bikes will be left at the event area and won't be riding around town. She added that some of the contests might be too racy and may need to be confined to tents but that with strict guidelines maybe a balance could be found.

Chairman Hess called for Board comment, and then stated that he would like as much business in town as possible. Before calling for a motion Chairman Hess summarized some possible conditions for the Board and Mr. Norby to consider:

1. Music to be shut down by 10:00 p.m.
2. No tent camping
3. Mr. Norby to reimburse Storey County for personnel overtime, which could reach 6 to 8 thousand dollars.
4. Event participants to be gone before Memorial Day.

Dan Norby thanked those who want his event in Virginia City and hoped to address some of the issues put forth by those who don't. He commented that he started doing "toy runs" in Reno and Carson City during the 1980's and is now trying to bring money to Virginia City with his event. Mr. Norby then stated that he first contacted Storey County about the event last June and was told he didn't

need to turn the paperwork in until after the first of the year. He added that his phone calls were not returned. Mr. Norby said that he feels Virginia City is motorcycle friendly and that he runs a safe and clean event. He reiterated that he has hired a trolley to keep drunk driving down and wants to abide by the rules. He added that he doesn't agree with all the stipulations but will comply.

Vice-Chairman Bob Kershaw stated that he understands the need for more business in town but also the residential impact the event could bring. He added that if the stipulations are met, he will follow the direction of the Commissioners who live in town.

Chairman Hess reiterated that if the main stipulations of early music, no tent camping, keeping the event to Saturday and Sunday and the reimbursement of overtime expenses could be met, he felt the event would be something the Board could live with.

Dan Norby interjected that the event will be over Sunday night and that by Monday people will be gone. He added that he doesn't feel the event will interfere with the Memorial Day festivities.

Chairman Hess asked if this would be something the board could live with.

Vice-Chairman Bob Kershaw asked if the event had been advertised.

Dan Norby stated yes, he has advertised heavily and he has put out a lot of money. He added that a lot of people will be here.

Chairman Hess asked Commissioner John Flanagan what his feelings were on the event.

Commissioner John Flanagan answered that he could not make a motion to approve the event or to vote for it.

Vice-Chairman Bob Kershaw asked to hear input from Sheriff Miller and other staff.

County Manager Pat Whitten spoke about how tough it is to make a decision when community is split. He stated that the Ramada Inn and other businesses need support, but many citizens are opposed to the event. He feels that this event needs to be streamlined and that we need to continue to bring the proper kind of events to town, events that benefit tourism and the town. Mr. Whitten added that he thinks with strict rules, Mr. Norby could make this a successful event.

He concluded that with tight controls and if conditions could be met he would recommend that the Board approve the event.

Dan Norby spoke in depth about respecting Virginia City and its residents. He stated that the “ Hot Body “contest will have no nudity, there will be no burn outs or drag racing and that event goers must be 21 years old to enter the tent area of the event.

Chairman Hess reiterated the main concerns of the event and their proposed solutions. He cautioned Mr. Norby that if the event were approved, he would have a one time shot to prove himself.

Sheriff Miller spoke of having long conversations with Mr. Norby. He stated that Mr. Norby is aware that drugs, DUIs, racing and loud noises will not be tolerated. Sheriff Miller then commented that the costs he gave for overtime to cover the event did not include other departments that might be needed.

Chairman Hess asked Commissioner Flanagan if, with the before mentioned restrictions, he would vote for approval of the event.

Commissioner John Flanagan answered that he cannot vote to approve the event.

Angelo Petrini commented that Virginia City will continue to have problems with special events because of the way the town is set up. He stated that with homes in commercial areas residents need to expect loudness and need to work together in this.

Cathy Lee James commented that she had been listening carefully and felt a real spirit of compromise in the room. She stated that she would retract her opposition if the proposed restrictions were met.

Joe Curtis commented that if motorcycles could be restricted to the event area it would be helpful.

Dan Norby stated that some bikers plan to participate in the Memorial Day Parade followed by a “blessing of the bikes” in the tent area. He feels that most but not all people will stay near the event area. He commented that he does not encourage bad behavior and is proud of his good reputation. He hopes the Board will take all this into consideration and vote in his favor.

Chairman Hess asked Mr. Norby if in his next flyer he could encourage bikers not to ride in town.

Dan Norby agreed to encourage bikers to walk or take the trolley.

Pat Whitten pointed out that this restriction would be mainly to keep bikers from riding in residential areas.

Sheriff Miller stated that there would be patrol cars watching the residential areas and didn't feel there would be a problem.

Division Chief Eric Guevin stated that Mr. Norby has done everything he has been asked to do. He has met insurance requirements and organized camping.

Chairman Hess called for a motion by the Board.

Vice-Chairman Bob Kershaw stated that, for the future, agenda items like this should go to the Tourism Board first for a recommendation then to the Board for a yes or a no.

Vice-Chairman Kershaw made a motion to approve the event this one time with all the conditions mentioned before hand.

Chairman Hess reconfirmed the proposed restrictions for the record:

- Music to stop by 10 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- No tent camping and RV camping in approved areas only.
- Approximate \$8,000.00 reimbursement to County for overtime expenses.
- Minimize residential impact by encouraging the use of trolleys or walking.

Chairman Hess seconded the motion. He added if things go bad you will be shut down.

Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 2, No = 1).

Yes: Chairman Greg Hess, and ViceChairman Bob Kershaw.

No: Commissioner John Flanagan.

ADJOURNMENT

By _____
Susan Breylinger, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer