

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BRANSON PUBLIC MEETING
REGARDING "CRUSIN BRANSON LIGHTS"**

JUNE 23, 2004

4:00 P.M.

A public meeting was held on June 23, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 110 West Maddux, Branson, Missouri, with businesses and event promoters regarding the "Crusin Branson Lights" special event to be held in August.

Promoter Jerry Tittus opened the meeting stating the promoters had had several meetings with City personnel and decided to involve the businesses to discuss the problems to see if some solutions and ideas could be obtained.

City Administrator Terry Dody indicated he thought it would be very helpful for everyone to know what the problems are and see if some solutions could be forthcoming. First of all these events have turned into a very big event. The main problems with the event is not the registered participants in the two-day event or the spectators, but the out-of-towners who gather at places other than the parade route, or join the parade route unofficially, and who disobey the regulations. They drive up and down 76 Highway, and gather in their cars in parking lots around town and do burn-outs that pose safety issues that we cannot control. The behavior of those people has led to fights and general bad behavior. We are bringing in the Highway Patrol and personnel from the Sheriff's Office but still we cannot handle the safety issues. It is the peripheral events that occur that is causing the problems. We have two great events that bring in lots of tourists, but it was bad enough last year that the Highway Patrol and Sheriff's Department stated they might not be able to come back because of the liability issue to their personnel. Again, it is not the events themselves, but the people that are here to watch the events and the peripheral actions that are causing the problems.

Assistant Police Chief Carroll McCullough spoke also stating it is not Jerry Tittus's or Gary Snadon's events that are causing the problems but it is the other people. It is the alcohol, the careless and reckless driving, and it is almost to the point that even with the assistance of the Highway Patrol and Sheriff's Department, we cannot handle the problems. These folks are out there creating dangerous situations and they must be stopped. We are here today looking for suggestions and ideas.

Jerry Tittus spoke indicating that the other cities like Reno and Detroit that have these events are very experienced and have more police to cover the event than we have, but there is no tolerance for burn-outs at these events. Some of the cities do have an area for the burn-outs and they are very organized and in a safe place. Mr. Tittus suggested if the City could find an area to do burn-outs he would like that. He said he thought the answer was they have to be strong but we also need more officers and help from the businesses.

Discussion was held regarding the following ideas:

- 1. Having the hotel and motel owners hire security to patrol their private parking lots for drinking and problems.**
- 2. Getting a sponsor for a burn-out pit area, charge entry fees and give out trophies.**
- 3. Post signs warning of fines imposed and amounts. Also have them state this is a "slow cruisin" event only, no burn-outs.**
- 4. Have the businesses to get the word out that this is serious and we will not tolerate that behavior.**
- 5. The City of Hollister offered assistance through their Police Department.**
- 6. Discussed have the cruising event in the morning instead of at night.**
- 7. Having the City hire extra enforcement manpower to cover the event.**
- 8. Discussion was held regarding changing the date of the event so that it does not fall on the same weekends as the State Fair and therefore the Highway Patrol could provide more assistance. It was agreed by Mr. Tittus and Mr. Snadon that the event could be moved to another weekend starting next year, but the advertising and registrations are done already and it could not be changed this year.**
- 9. Discussion was held regarding having a media blitz stating that certain behavior would not be tolerated and the police would be enforcing the City ordinances.**
- 10. Discussion was held regarding asking the hotels and motels not to let water be taken from their pools and hoses used for burn-outs in their parking lots or on the streets.**

After agreeing that everyone did not want to lose this event and that a committee should be formed of business owners to get the word out to the businesses, to make up signs indicating it is a "slow cruisin" event and violators would be cited, and that the City should contact the Springfield, Nixa, and Ozark Police Departments, along with Greene and Christian counties for assistance with the event this year the meeting was adjourned.