

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
January 6, 2010**

**APPROVED BY  
January 13, 2010  
CITY COUNCIL**

The City of Bradenton City Council met in special session in the City Hall Council Chamber, 101 Old Main Street, Bradenton, Florida on January 6, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.

**Present:** Mayor Wayne Poston; Councilman Ward I Gene Gallo; Councilwoman Ward II Marianne Barnebey; Councilman Ward III Patrick Roff; Councilman Ward IV Bemis Smith and Vice Mayor and Councilman Ward V Harold E. Byrd, Jr.

**City Officials:** Carl Callahan, City Clerk and Treasurer; Claude Tankersley, Public Works Director; William Lisch, City Attorney; Mark Souders, Fire Chief; Michael Radzilowski, Police Chief; Tim Polk, Department of Planning and Community Development Director; Staci Cross, Information Technology Director, and Carolyn Moore, Human Resources Director.

**Press:** The Bradenton Times.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Poston.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the De Soto Heritage Festival Parade and its proposed route extension from 39<sup>th</sup> to 43<sup>rd</sup> Street West and concerns for public safety and the possible need for additional barricades.

Representing the De Soto Historical Society was: Gary Scott, President of the De Soto Historical Society; Gus Sokos, President Elect; Chris Wilkinson, Chairman of the Grand Parade; Joe Miller, General Chairman of the De Soto Historical Society and Tom Murphy, Past Grand Parade Chairman.

Representing local law enforcement was: Manatee County Sheriff Brad Steube, Palmetto Police Chief Gary Lowe and Holmes Beach Police Chief Jay Romine.

Lengthy discussion: A letter to the De Soto Historical Society from Police Chief Radzilowski requesting additional barricades with concerns for public safety regarding children running out into the street to pick up beads and candy.

The De Soto Historical Society Committee had met with the Tourist Development Council (TDC) to request financial help of approximately \$25,000 to pay for the additional barricades. The TDC had directed them to meet with the Manatee County Commissioners who had directed them back to the TDC. The next meeting of the TDC was scheduled for February.

Lengthy discussion: As Manatee Avenue is a main thoroughfare; it would be extremely difficult to close it down to two lanes at 1:00 on a Saturday afternoon during tourist season to install the additional barricades. Under previous parade preparations the street has not been closed down to two lanes until 5:30 pm.

The Heritage Festival supported the idea to extend the parade route from 39<sup>th</sup> Street to 43<sup>rd</sup> Street but had concerns about the extra cost for barricades and additional law enforcement that had not been budgeted for.

Discussion: The parade had been in existence for 71 years and was the longest parade in the state. Due to the loss of sponsorship this year, caused increased budget restraints.

Chief Radzilowski referred to his letter stating there were justifiable concerns for the safety of children. He stated that the parade affected all of Manatee County and not just the city of Bradenton.

Sheriff Steube stated that the Manatee County Sheriff's Office had 94 deputies working the parade last year at a cost of about \$27,000; he opposed the extension of the parade which would require an additional 14 deputies resulting in a \$30,000 expense against his budget.

Sheriff Steube stated the parade was a community effort and the department would do what was needed. He stated he supported Police Chief Radzilowski and his request for additional barricades because public safety is the #1 priority.

Discussion: To have a representative of the Florida Department of Transportation come down for next year's parade and discuss what FDOT would recommend and/or require to close over 100 + street entry points along the parade route.

The De Soto Historical Society representatives stated they had always worked to ensure security and safety every year, and this year they would require more walkers to accompany the floats.

**MOTION TO APPROVE the Heritage Festival Parade route as it had been last year with the same amount of barricades was made by Councilman Gallo, seconded by Councilman Smith and passed 5-0 for approval.**

Chief Radzilowski stated that at yesterday's meeting of the Manatee County Law Enforcement Safety Council, he had discussed the parade and the need for law enforcement assistance and had been informed that there were no mutual aid agreements between agencies at this time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Poston adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

NOTE: This is not a verbatim record. An audio CD or DVD recording of the meeting is available for a fee upon request.