

City Council: Business Sign Ordinance Needs Revising

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on back-to-back weekends in mid-July. He said the Island received 256 mutual aid hours from area police departments, which assisted with patrols at no additional cost to the community, other than \$1,195 for food for the officers.

Island police logged 521 hours during both race periods, including 140 hours in overtime.

In other business, Council members were update on the new ambulance and were advised papers were signed and it should be on the Island by early November.

Alderman Armin Porter suggested Council amend the sign ordinance to allow businesses to put their name on their doors rather than have it

be a part of the current maximum allowance of two signs per business. Mayor Doud agreed the sign ordinance needs to be revised, but postponed further discussion for a future meeting.

Mackinac Island received \$15,000 from Coca Cola Bottling Company under an agreement that allows the company to be the official soft drink here. For the time being, the money has been placed in the General Fund. Mayor Doud reported that final placement of the money has not been determined, but a report would be presented at the next meeting.

The city has had the agreement with the soft drink company for several years.

Alderman Frank Bloswick

said he believed a tree has overgrown an area near the Beaver Dock on Main Street making it difficult for the fire truck to get through. The Mayor said she would have it checked out.

A temporary motor vehicle permit was denied to RaddcomComm and Dodson Cellular of Whitehouse, Texas, to use a Ford Escape to hold equipment that would do emergency 9-1-1 wireless calibration testing. Council felt the vehicle is not needed and the work can be done using a horse-drawn dray.

Council gave its approval for a request from Pat Pulte of Murray Hotel for the Wheelman's Association that is coming to the Island August 11 through 14.

The group would like to string a rope from the light post on Main Street just west of the Murray Hotel to a hitching post east of the hotel to hang their bikes for display and safety between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. The City had granted the request two years ago. Also, the group wants to park their antique

high-wheeled bicycles in the courtyard by City Hall, which they had done in the past as well.

Council gave approval for a temporary motor vehicle permit to Belonga Plumbing of St. Ignace that had already taken place owing to an emergency situation. Mayor Doud advised Council there had been an sewer line rapier needed in the Forest Brook area and a back-

hoe from the Island's sewage treatment facility was used.

A tool crib removal by dray was granted to Cliff's Painting, which is moving it off the Island.

Council tabled a decision on reprinting the city's zoning ordinance until it has a chance to study a quote received. The issue will be brought up again at the next meeting, which is Wednesday, August 17, at 6

Ralston Blair Reports From Jamaica

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done so, the mongoose themselves became a problem, and so the remedy of burning the fields with mongooses in them was probably the basis for the origin of this old time Jamaican saying.

Well, I've probably said a mouthful, so I guess it's time to let you relax and digest it all.

But since I'm not there on Mackinac Island, in person, I invite all those who wish to give me their feedback, suggestions, and comments, to

send your messages to me at my personal e-mail address: blairnyou@hotmail.com

Next Week: From Emancipation to Independence.

Until then, Stay Irie.

Ralston Blair is a Jamaican writer and journalist who has worked the past several summers on Mackinac Island. He is writing this year from Jamaica. Ideas and comments about his column can also be delivered in care of the Town Crier.

Reenactors Visit Mackinaw City

Reenactors from throughout the Midwest join British troops at Fort Michilimackinac in Mackinaw City to re-create life in the mid-18th century at an encampment Saturday and

Sunday, August 6 and 7. The reenactors will portray French and British colonialists from the French and Indian War period of the late 1750s to early 1760s.

Island Presents Addressing Challenge

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its."

Now, with each road designated either as running east-west or north-south, and a set amount of numbers per mile, it was time to get down to the real job of addressing. Streets began at 1000 at the southeast corner of the Island, near Mission Point, and then run north. Numbers between 1000 and 6000 were assigned to all north-south streets, while east-west streets received numbers above 6000. Because there are not 6,000 buildings on the Island, there is a gap in numbering between the north-south streets and the east-west ones.

There is one exception to this numbering rule, and that is M-185, which has been numbered consecutively all along the road.

"This makes the most sense," said Mr. Lange, "since it forms a circumference of the Island. It builds from the west side and circumferences the island in a clockwise manner. The first number is at Devil's Kitchen."

If Mr. Lange had used the normal grid system to number M-185, he would have had to split the road into two separate segments, running north-south and east-west, but he said that because the street is barely populated, it made more sense to number it consecutively. When M-185 runs into the downtown area, it reverts to Main Street and the normal grid system.

As for actually numbering landmarks, Mr. Lange mentioned that this was also something a little unique to the Island.

"It is and it isn't normal to address landmarks," he said. "They almost always have numbers, but the question is how to display them on a map."

He said that for addressing purposes, it is important to

number landmarks. The reason, especially for the island, that addressing is so important is for 9-1-1. If somebody is at one of these reference points, it is quicker for a 9-1-1 dispatcher to immediately pick up a location from a cellular phone satellite locator than for the person to describe it to a dispatcher.

Also numbered have been undeveloped parcels throughout the Island. Mr. Lange created points on the parcels, and has numbers available. Vacant corner lots have a number for each street, but the number used will be the one on the street a building faces.

Though at times the process of creating an addressing system for the Island was slow, Mr. Lange said that it is better to go more slowly and make certain that everything is correct.

He said that changing addressing after the process is completed is more of a mess than getting it right in the first place.

"Changing addresses is not a way to make friends. Better to have everything correct in the first place," he said.

Once the numbers are approved this year, he said, they should not have to be changed for any reason.

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