



Millville residents make voices heard on NJMP noise fix

Published: Tuesday, August 03, 2010, 9:13 PM Updated: Tuesday, August 03, 2010, 9:17 PM



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MILLVILLE – “I’m glad you recognize that we have a problem, but you have done nothing to address it.”

This was a common refrain heard during the public comment portion of Tuesday night’s Millville City Commission meeting. It came in response to the first reading of amendments to an ordinance concerning noise levels at the New Jersey Motorsports Park.

The second reading, complete with public hearing, will take place at the next meeting, on Aug. 17. This also drew the ire of some Millville residents, who say that by then, it will be too late.

“Comments that night can’t be analyzed and digested,” resident Paul Parrecca said. “How do we get to you so we can suggest what to do about (this point or that point)?”

Vice Mayor Joe Derella suggested some system by which residents can funnel comments through Commissioner Vanaman or Commissioner Dale Finch. There was also a question raised about why Mayor Tim Shannon, who was absent from Tuesday night’s meeting, and Commissioner Jim Quinn are allowed to sit on the panel with the rest of the commissioners when they have been disqualified from voting on the issue for separate reasons.

“The two members have not participated and they have abstained from voting,” said Attorney Richard McCarthy, who promised to look into that issue further.

The commissioners also wanted to dispel what they refer to as misinformation in the newspaper about a connection between the proposed ordinance and a separate ordinance concerning a proposed ATV park to be put onsite. That ordinance is to undergo first reading in two weeks, Vanaman said.

There were complaints that property values were going down because of the noise associated with the park, that there is no real fix in the agreement, and that the city has intentionally deceived the public during the process.

But the phrase that most dominated the meeting was "Roosterrunning the hen house," which members of the public used to describe thecommissioners allowing the motorsports park to monitor its own sound on a goodfaith effort.

"They said it a year and a half ago, and here it is again,"Michelle Post said. "How many times can they say good faith effort before they'rethe boy who cried wolf."

"Are there going to be any restrictions on the park?"resident Carol Shanton asked during the agenda session. "I read where it'sgoing to run every day in August except for two weekend days. There are nightswhere they're running at midnight. Is there going to be anything said to thisgroup?"

There had been some question over what was in the agreementbetween the city and the motorsports park. Derella reassured residents copiesof the ordinance would be available upon request on the third floor of themunicipal building, and online at the city's website.

NJMP was able to have a say when Attorney Jeff DiLazzerospoke on its behalf.

"This is part of an economic development project that thecity invited and it's working," DiLazzero said. "Two new hotels are going upand the reason is because of the motorsports park. It's an economic developmentproject, but there needs to be an attraction."

He pointed to out-of-town tourists that never would've cometo Millville without NJMP, including an international karting event thatbrought in residents from 26 countries.

"A contract is as good as the people who sign it, and thereare remedies in this ordinance for breaching the agreement," DiLazzero said. "Ifthe motorsports park doesn't act in good faith, there are things the committeecan deny it."

"I think the whole agreement is a farce," Parrecca said. "Thecity doesn't need an agreement. It can impose restrictions because this is onoperational standards.

"But it's good to see that the committee has gone on recordsaying that there is a noise problem."

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