

## CITY OF MANCHESTER

### MEETING OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION

January 13, 2021

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 5 p.m. on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021, on the video conference application, Zoom, for the transaction of such business that came before the Commission.

Present:

Mayor Mike Clement  
Alderman Megan Huether  
Secretary Bonnie Krueger  
President Kay Bell  
Mr. Bob Bell

Ms. Ruth Baker  
Ms. Kat Schien  
Mr. Bud Niebling  
SFC Westley Moore  
City Administrator Larry Perney

#### **Introduction/Welcome**

Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Kay approved the November minutes, Megan Huether seconded. The approved minutes will be forwarded to City Clerk Justin Klocke to be posted on the city of Manchester website.

Commissioners congratulated SFC Moore on his promotion and spoke highly of the unique ceremony held at the Veterans Memorial on Dec. 15. It was attended by Westley's unit, family and neighbors.

#### ***Old Business***

#### **Review of budget for 2021**

The proposed 2021 budget was discussed line by line. Highlighted events:

- **Veterans concert** (Vietnam era concert—coming home) was discussed. The Sei's have asked to be involved in the planning.
- **Veteran/family scholarships.** In May, the Manchester Message will remind residents of the scholarships available to park and pool programming events. Huether suggested creating rack cards with Veteran related dates on one side and information on Hometown Heroes, scholarship information and brick sales on the back. She will coordinate with Ellie.
- **Veterans Memorial upgrades/plaques** A discussion ensued about keeping the plaques in the same likeness as what appears at the Veterans Memorial now. General consensus was to keep it similar in aesthetics but can deviate because it would be difficult to match 100 percent. Bonnie Krueger will solicit bids for the display honoring the individuals who served Full Measure of Devotion.
- **Clean Flags of Valor** Considerable discussion as to the proper way to clean the flags was held. It was suggested to speak to Rick Randall to see if he has insight as to best practices and costs. It was also discussed to make sure that we have multiple photos or laminated photos to preserve quality.

- **Build/purchase a donation box for Veterans Memorial** Kat Schien suggested that Manchester employee Craig Waterhouse build a donation box in house. Mayor Mike Clement suggested including Krueger in the process.

### **Hometown Heroes Project (Kay Bell)**

A first look at the program for residents will be in the Feb. 1 Manchester Message. The program should officially launch on May 1. The hope is that enough residents of Manchester will have veterans or active-duty military family to honor on the flags, without having to look outside of the Manchester area for participation. There are approximately 15 double sided poles to hang flags, plus the additional flags (6/7) at Schroeder Park. Krueger also suggested seeing if South High would be willing to display flags, particularly if they are graduates of South High. They will hang on the poles from May through December. At that time families will have an option to have their flag returned, or for a reduced fee, pay to have it rehung again in the spring. Bud Niebling and Kay will explain the program to the American Legion and auxiliary.

### **Veterans Community Project**

Huether arranged from a Zoom meeting with program officials on Jan. 28 at 5:30 p.m. (Also with Veterans Planning Commission) It is an opportunity to meet one another and see if there is an opportunity to collaborate since all of us have a mission to help veterans. A list of Community Project attendees was provided.

### **Flags of Valor debriefing/20<sup>th</sup> anniversary 9/11**

Huether and Clement attended a zoom meeting about the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, which will be taking place on Art Hill from Sept. 6 to Sept. 11. It is the vision of Rick Randall, who has done similar programs for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the terrorist attack. The event includes the installation of about 7,500 Flags of Valor, which have to be monitored daily during the week. It requires an enormous amount of people to help coordinate, starting as early as June or July. They need help with installation and removal. At the end, flags are returned to families over the next few years, which is a vast undertaking. Clement asked that we consider building a team of 30 people or more, which could include VFW members, Veterans Commission, Veterans Planning, Manchester Cares and residents. In the past, the event has raised over \$300,000 for military charities.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. by Kay.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 24 at 5 p.m. via Zoom