



THE CITY OF
MANCHESTER
MISSOURI

Veterans Commission

Meeting of March 15, 2023

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 5:00 p.m. on the 15th day of March, 2023, via the video communication site ZOOM, for the transaction of such business that came before the Commission.

Present were:

Mayor Mike Clement
Alderman Megan Huether
President Kay Bell
City Administrator Justin Klocke
Secretary Bonnie Krueger

Ms. Ruth Baker
Mr. Bob Bell
Ms. Julie Nguyen
Mr. Bill Pinkston
Commander J. Sam Fletcher

Introduction/Welcome/Approval of Minutes

President Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. The Minutes of the February 15, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved for Justin Klocke to post on the City of Manchester website.

City Update

City Administrator Justin Klocke stated that in regard to the planned annexation, the City is working on best practices for educating the current Manchester residents and also the residents in the proposed annexation area. The vote will be on Nov. 7.

Demolition work for the new City Hall building is in process, which unfortunately included the removal of five trees. Framing is now underway on the interior. Improvements are being made to the ground floor. The old drive-thru will be enclosed, which for now is unplanned space. The project is on schedule for late Summer or early September. There will be an open house held upon completion.

On April 4 there is a ballot measure for 3 % tax for recreational marijuana. The City is not going to any extensive educational efforts on the ballot proposition.

Mike mentioned having a meeting with the Islamic Mosque to continue building a strong relationship with the Islamic population of safety, security and trust.

Harugari Cemetery (Civil War Veterans)

A special event will be held there on April 22 for the five Civil War Union veterans planned by John Avery. They have asked Kay to speak as the president of the Commission. It is also the City's Arbor Day event that morning so Mike is verifying time frame of the 45-minute Harugari event. Parking is limited so creativity is a must for those attending.

Hometown Heroes

Mike said that there are 24 banners registered, including 7 new participants. According to Kat Shien, five openings for banners are still available. They will go up the week before Memorial Day and stay up through September.

Memorial Day planning

Mike mentioned that the house on the property acquired by the city next to Stoecker Park is demolished, but there is still debris. He is hoping it will be cleared in time for the Memorial Day event. As of this date, the Honor Guard, bag pipers/drum group, motorcycle group, and Bald Eagle have all been invited and reserved. Bud will acquire a list of veterans from Commander Mike Beasley to invite. A new pastor needs to be asked to give the blessing. Bonnie suggested contacting Nancy Venezia to get a list of area pastors who may be available.

Kay will send out an email to find another meeting day/time to work on some of the details of the event.

Veterans mental health initiative in 2023

Megan stated that there is a Mental Health Conference in the planning stages sponsored by the Veterans Community Project, to be held May 18 at a Union Hall from 8 to noon. A planning meeting is scheduled for March 31 from 8:30 to 10:30, which several Commissions expressed interest in attending. Ashley Norton is the lead from Veterans Community Project.

Commander Sam Fletcher overview of his time in Colorado

In Sam fashion, he presented an outstanding overview of military numbers and his time in his 7th deployment, His current deployment is in Colorado for three months where his family is with him. He is involved with an 6th uniformed service branch U.S. Space Force, where 8,000 soldiers (known as Guardians) serve. Sam has spent 10 years in the reserves and 10 years active duty in the U.S. Navy and is planning to retire in February 2024 with 20 years of service. He is open to sharing some specifics about his particularly challenging and meaningful deployments at a future time.

H.E.R.O.E.S. Care

A food drive will be held to coincide with Memorial Day, which will benefit veterans through the Care organization. A grand opening is being held on March 28 at 7 a.m.

ManchesterCares

The City has connected with a military veteran in need through a door hanger left on a home by Code Enforcement. He did not have the means to make the small corrections required by the City. Mike reiterated that this is what he envisioned with the Commission to help veterans in need and make them aware of services.

Flags of Valor

An email from a local resident notified Mike of a flag mailed in error to a Gold Star Family. When the error was made, it was never corrected by the family receiving the correct one. Bonnie and another volunteer, Lauri, had possession of all the returned and unmailed flags. We were able to locate the flag and mail it to the family making the request.

American Legion

The question was asked about this year's fish fries. Bud explained that there will be none this year because there is nobody to manage the kitchen currently.

March meeting date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18 at 5:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Adjournment

At 6:15 p.m., there being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.