



Veterans Commission

Meeting of September 7, 2022

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 5:00 p.m. on the 7th day of September, 2022, 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
Director of Parks, Recreation, and Arts Kat Schien
Ms. Ruth Baker
Mr. Bob Bell
Mr. Bud Niebling
Ms. Julie Nguyen
Commander Sam Fletcher

Introduction/Welcome/Approval of Minutes

President Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. The Minutes of the August 17, 2022 meeting was unanimously approved for Justin Klocke to post on the City of Manchester website.

City Appreciation dinner for the Veterans Commission

City Administrator Justin Klocke stated that this is the first dinner for the Veterans Commission, and it is planned for October 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Parks Building in Schroeder Park. He said he is still waiting on responses from a couple people, including the guest they plan to accompany them. He asked that he receive information in regard to dietary restrictions.

Manchester Homecoming Booth

Mayor Mike Clement stated that the location has changed, and he will be sending out a map with the change. The Veterans Commission will now be sharing a booth with the Homecoming Committee. This year there will also be activities for the children.

POW/MIA Ceremony on Friday, September 16

The POW/MIA Ceremony will be held on Friday, September 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial. Retired Lieutenant Colonel of the U. S. Air Force, Wayne

Wallingford, will be able to join us and give a reflection about his experience and how it relates to the importance of the day. Bob Whaley, whose father is missing in Korea, will present a wreath and will have an 18 inch frame with recognition included. He reminded Alderman Megan Huether of a story whereby his dad carried his wedding ring around for a period of time in his mouth, and eventually gave it to a friend who carried it in his mouth and was eventually able to return the ring to the family. Bob Whaley is willing to participate in the event, probably next year, and he will join the Commission at an in-person meeting in the future.

Mayor Mike Clement reviewed the program and said that there would be a walk-through Thursday, September 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial. He said Chris Becker will be available to play the trumpet, and it was determined that all attendees should stand during taps, and that should be added to the program.

Alderman Megan Huether stated that Kat Schien informed her that the Linebacker brick will be in place by that day, and there was a suggestion to incorporate that into the ceremony.

2023 Budget Discussion

The 2023 planned budget is similar to 2022. Several line items were discussed, and the consensus was that the planned 2023 budget should be submitted to the Board of Aldermen for approval.

2022 Veterans Day plans

Director Kat Schien discussed the breakfast, stating that the Legion is booked for the event. Volunteers will be on site at 6:00 a.m. to prepare food, and the doors will be open to the public at 7:00 a.m. Veterans will be served breakfast downstairs at the Legion Hall. To-go boxes will also be available.

The evening ceremony, the Hometown Heroes Banner recognition, will be held at the Justice Center, and it will be similar to the event last year, except there are more banners this year. The banners will be removed from the light poles around October 4, and placed in the Justice Center then, and extra time may be needed for individuals to speak. Jim Labit has offered to play music at the ceremony.

Other Business

City Administrator Justin Klocke read a letter received from the manager of Autumn Oaks apartments, complimenting three employees, Code Enforcement Officer John Plowman, Sergeant Meredith Absolon and Code Enforcement Officer Carrie Alexander who assisted an 85-year-old veteran with prostate cancer. She believes these individuals likely saved his life. Unfortunately, there are veterans who have problems and are alone and they don't have the opportunities that many others have.

Alderman Huether spoke about a young mother with acute mental health problems with postpartum depression who found her way to First Evangelical Free Church and the people there were helping her and also trying to assist her in navigating steps for the

future. She will let the Veterans Commission know if there is something additional to be done; it seems that the mother's needs are being met right now.

Mayor Clement stated that the City is in the process of creating a 501C3 for "Manchester Cares".

Julie Nguyen asked if there is anything in place to advocate the Veterans Commission resources to businesses and apartments.

City Administrator Justin Klocke responded that there can be updates in the City's quarterly newsletter, advising of the services and support available through the Veterans Commission. There was discussion about maybe having a letter sent to managers to tell the story.

There was a question about annexation, and Mayor Clement stated that the Public Hearing had been held where the City presented the rationale for the plan. The Boundary Commission has Manchester's Plan of Intent, and the St. Louis County plan also. The Boundary Commission submitted to Manchester ten questions which will be promptly answered. There is hope that the Boundary Commission will accept Manchester's plan by the end of October, to allow for four or five months of planning, and that this can go to a vote of the people in April, 2023.

October meeting date

The next meeting of the Veterans Commission will be on Thursday, October 13 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

At 5:54 p.m., there being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Baker, Acting Secretary