



## Veterans Commission

Meeting of February 15, 2023

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A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 5:00 p.m. on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 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  
Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Kat Schien

Ms. Ruth Baker  
Mr. Bob Bell  
Ms. Julie Nguyen  
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 January 12, 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 second vote passed with the St. Louis County Boundary Commission. The City is now working on educating the current Manchester residents and also the residents in the proposed annexation area. The vote will be on November 7.

Demolition work for the new City Hall building is in process. Framing is now underway on the interior. Improvements are being made to the ground floor. The old drive-thru will be enclosed. The project is on schedule for late Summer or early September. There will be an open house held.

### **Overview of revised 2023 calendar and important dates**

The 2023 calendar was reviewed. Director Kat Schien asked whether the POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held on Sunday, September 17 and whether Veterans Day events will be held on Saturday, November 11. She stated that especially on Veterans Day, the veterans go to breakfast and then go to the schools. This is being taken under consideration.

In regard to Hometown Heroes, Kat stated that the banners will go up the week before Memorial Day and stay up through September. She advised that there have been quite a few renewals from 2022. She said the total right now is in the 20-30 range, with at least five new applications. There was mention made about a previous suggestion to have veteran banners on both sides of the poles. The suggestion was to ask the veterans about sharing poles.

### **Meet Veterans Support non-profit: Fallen Heroes Family Lifeline**

Mr. Todd Copeland told the story about his 21-year-old daughter who joined the Army, and about two years after having joined the Army, her boyfriend killed her. She is survived by a daughter. Mr. Copeland stated that he struggled for 1 ½ years and found other families with similar situations. He started up a database of resources throughout the country. He set up the foundation, and there are more than 175 families helping already to bring urgent and emergency assistance. He said his daughter would want to be helping people, whether she got credit or not, so he is trying to set up a campground retreat. He said Army chaplains would provide support and counseling services on the campground. He said this is a \$8 million goal. Mayor Mike Clement stated he will give Mr. Copeland some resource information.

### **Harugari Cemetery (Civil War Veterans)**

Mayor Clement stated that the Public Works Department has made nice upgrades to the sign and the Parks Department has made an upgrade to the kiosk currently there. He stated there are five Civil War veterans (Union soldiers) there. A special event will be held there on April 22.

### **Memorial Day planning**

The suggestion was made to have Mr. Copeland as the speaker. Other topics discussed included the Flags of Valor, reserving the Eagle, inviting the bagpipers and drum group, the motorcycle group, the community band, the trumpeter, and the Color Guard (Civil Air Patrol or Sons of the American Legion).

### **Veterans mental health initiative in 2023**

Julie discussed the Veterans Fair, resources available for the whole individual. Megan Huether stated that there is a Mental Health Conference, currently in the planning stages, to be held May 18 at a Union Hall. Julie said she will try to attend the meeting which is to be held on February 24 from 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

### **American Legion**

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

### **Other initiatives and focus**

The suggestion was to have a chance to talk with Todd Copeland again.

### **March meeting date**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15 at 5:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

### **Adjournment**

At 6:18 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