

## **CITY OF MANCHESTER**

### **MEETING OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION**

September 17, 2020

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 5 p.m. on the 17th day of September 2020, 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  
Chair Kay Bell  
Mr. Bud Niebling  
Ms. Julie Nguyen  
Ms. Ruth Baker  
Mr. Bob Bell  
Mr. James Francis

#### **Introduction/Welcome**

Chair Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. After approving the August minutes, Mayor Clement asked that the minutes be forwarded to City Clerk Justin Klocke to be posted on the city of Manchester website. In the future, after the minutes are typed up, Clement asked that they be sent out to all the commissioners for corrections or changes. Upon approval, they should always be sent to Klocke with a cc to Clement.

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

#### **Funding for Veterans programs/initiatives**

The proposed 2021 budget was presented with the addition of the Hometown Heroes program, and various other adjustments. The budget meetings are typically the end of October. Upon approval, Clement suggested we assign dates to the proposed Veteran programs and initiatives. It was suggested to have the Parks Dept. build a donation box for the Veterans Memorial at Margaret Stoecker Park.

Having also sent out an email explanation, Kay Bell explained the Hometown Heroes program, which will be implemented by Manchester. The program is active in both Lebanon, Missouri and Collinsville, Illinois. She spoke with reps in Lebanon, who said it is very popular. With the use of flag poles along Manchester Road, and throughout various parks, families may purchase banners for \$150 to honor a loved one's military service. The cost to the city should be around \$65, so the balance would be profit to help with other costs the commission incurs or spends. The banner would fly for a certain period of time and then would be owned by the family. The city could opt to display the flags at certain times of the year or throughout the city.

### **POW/MIA Recognition Event**

Megan Huether is helping to coordinate logistics for the Facebook Live POW/MIA event on Sept. 18. After a successful dress rehearsal and sound check, the city is well prepared for the live event. Huether asked that those watching the event to please leave a comment.

James Francis will be teaching U.S. Government class at that time and said that he will have the class watch the live broadcast, which certainly supports the curriculum and was determined to be age appropriate.

### **American Legion Update**

Bud Niebling reiterated that the Legion Hall is struggling with attendance. About 25% capacity at Bingo and the kitchen is still closed. In order to maintain social distancing, the women's auxiliary meets on a different night than the men. It is anticipated that the downturn of the Legion's financial and physical use of the property will remain through the end of the year.

### **Veterans Service Recognition Report**

Bonnie Krueger has not been able to connect with any additional family members of the 7 individuals who died in service. She was able to create bio pages for the South High archives book, which included some updated information. Bob Bell suggested looking into Togetherweserved(Army) to find some missing contacts.

### **Helping Manchester Veterans**

Clement was not able to connect with Bryan Pantazo to see if he had any additional needs or found his solutions after being connected with Stephanie Kirk. He hopes to have an update for the next meeting.

Clement also presented another need given to him by a Police Chaplain. Steve Harbaugh has a friend who is looking for VA services for dementia. Bud suggested contacting the Alzheimer's Association for resources. Huether also recommended seeing if anyone from the resource fair could help. Another of Clement's friends from church is having surgery and will be connected through Tom White of the 10<sup>th</sup> district and Chris Johnson of the American Legion.

### *New Business*

#### **Partnership with Army West County Recruiting Office**

With the addition of SSgt. Westley Moore on the commission, Krueger reached out for his assistance on the Freedom Memorial Wall. Through his contacts, a list of 22 individuals from the last few years was provided as serving active duty through South High. The Air Force list is still pending. If Krueger cannot connect with all these families, the office will be able to help make that happen. The West County office asked if they can financially partner with the funding for the FMW if needed. While that may not apply now, that is a great resource for the future.

In the last two weeks, having created a Facebook page, Krueger has connected with a number of individuals who should appear on the wall. She turned in 24 names to have name plates made, with another 3 names confirmed that day. To date, about 90 new names have been added to the

wall, which now has about 350 total names. Krueger has about 50 new names to investigate.  
(<https://www.facebook.com/SouthFreedomMemorialWall/>)

**Calendar Date additions**

Clement added Patriot Day for Sept. 11 to honor the 9/11 victims and event. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary is next year. Krueger suggested partnering with the West County EMS & Fire Station 2, which has a 9/11 memorial on site.

**Adjournment**

Next meeting date was confirmed for Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 5 p.m. via video conferencing. There being no further business, Chair Kay Bell adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.