Mayor's Veterans Council Meeting **Monday, July 13, 2026; 1500/3:00 PM**

City Hall, Room 208

Members Present: Don Vincent, American Legion Post 3; John York, American Legion Post 3; Clayton Proffer, VFW Post 43; Chairman Lewis Chipola, VFW Post 43; Doug Cotrau, Disabled American Veterans
Also Present: Emily Vassar-Rivas, Mayor's Office
Absent: Steve Ordway (VFW); Marc Plante (VFW); Mayor Jim Donchess

The meeting was called to order at 1505/3:05 PM.

The first item on the agenda was this year's Veterans Day Parade; L. Chipola asked if there were any updates to share from the Parade Committee. John York advised that the planning will begin in September, and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is leading the planning this year. L. Chipola asked if the Army band was planning to participate. J. York advised that they are not participating.

The next agenda item was the Veterans Memorial Parkway. L. Chipola advised that overgrown weeds and brush are again present along the guardrails and sidewalks, and some poles have graffiti. E. Vassar-Rivas will be reaching out to the DPW so that they can send a work crew to address it. Additionally, some banner poles had been bent, presumably by high winds, but they were fixed right away.

The next item for discussion was the 9/11 ceremony to be held at the East Hollis Street fire station's 9/11 Memorial. It is coordinated with the Fire Department. J. York will be reaching out at the end of July to find out who in the FD is the coordinator, and planning will begin from there. This marks 25 years since the event.

L. Chipola reminded members about the Veterans Coffee Talk Hour held on the second Tuesday of every month at the June Caron Senior Center, and encouraged them to spread the word. It is a great way for veterans to network, learn about services and programs that benefit them, and socialize.

Post Updates:

- American Legion: J. York announced that the Legion is a recent recipient of charitable gaming funds from the Nash Casino. They will be presented with their check at the end of the month. Their committee is hoping to put some of the money towards building renovations, such as new lighting. Additionally, they would like to invest in a new banner to represent the Post at Holman Stadium. E. Vassar-Rivas asked for an update on the parking situation there on Court Street. J. York said it was still not good simply because parking is very limited Downtown. Although the Legion has two parking spots in front of the building designated for veterans, many Legion members, often with mobility issues, are forced to park quite a way from the Legion. J. York mentioned that there are some towns in NH, like Portsmouth, that he's seen have veteran-focused parking programs that allow those with NH veteran plates to park for free throughout the city. E. Vassar-Rivas said she'd look into those programs and their structure to see if something similar might be feasible for Nashua. She advised that the main hurdle would likely be supplementary funding.

- DAV: D. Cotrau circled back to veterans' parking privileges, specifically those for disabled veterans. A DAV plate is akin to a handicap plate, and, like drivers with a handicap plate, DAV drivers can park for free in all municipal spaces.

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- VFW: L. Chipola mentioned that the VFW is being gifted with a suite at Holman this month for a Silver Knights game, which they are looking forward to. On August 16, they will be facilitating a flag-raising ceremony at the Nashua Country Club to commemorate the Folds of Honor Golf Tournament. The VFW has been participating since 2005, along with a 21-gun detail and a bugler to play Taps to honor servicemen who perished while on active duty. The VFW will have a booth at this year's Gate City Brew Fest on August 22, held at Holman Stadium. They plan to have four members present to take shifts manning the booth while others can mingle and enjoy the festivities. The event runs from 1:00 PM/1300 to 5:00 PM/1700. This year's Poppy Drive, organized and run by the VFW, will take place as usual this November to coincide with Veterans Day. The drive raises money for a relief fund they maintain to help veterans in need with expenses that would otherwise negatively affect their lives, such as car repairs and home improvements. C. Proffer expressed his gratitude to the City and Mayor Donchess for helping to facilitate the ceremonial raising of the Betsy Ross flag at City Hall Plaza to commemorate the 4th of July. It also included the Jr. ROTC, the flag detail, Honor Guard, and the presentation of the Jr. ROTC of the Year Award.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM/1535.

The next meeting of the Mayor's Veterans Council will be held on Monday, September 14, at 3:00 PM/1500 in Room 208.

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