

Mayor's Veterans Council

5/14/2025

Time: 3:00 PM/1500

Location: City Hall, Room 208

Members Present: Mayor Donchess; John York; Don Vincent

Also Present: Emily Vassar

The meeting began at 3:05 PM/1505

Contact info for the Women's Auxiliary was provided to E. Vassar. She is going to reach out in order to connect them with Parks so they can facilitate replacing a tree at the Veterans Memorial Park located in Railroad Square. The previous tree was removed by the City due to disease; it was first donated by the WA in the late 1800's or early 1900's along with a plaque placed in the ground at the base of that tree. The plaque is still in place, as is the stump of the diseased tree. Parks will likely provide a list of approved trees and facilitate from there.

The Memorial Day parade was discussed: the parade will use the normal route; a list of cemeteries where morning ceremonies will take place was provided, as were all other details. J. York asked if the viewing stand would be present in front of City Hall for the parade; E. Vassar advised she would contact Building Maintenance to inquire about that (it was subsequently confirmed by J. Hunneywell of Building Maintenance that the DPW would be setting up the viewing stand, and Building Maintenance would set up the chairs, podium, etc.). The Mayor advised he will be out of town visiting family, and will be unable to attend the festivities. He estimated that approximately eight City officials will likely partake in the parade. The new Special Events system is in place, and best practices were briefly discussed. It was agreed that after this first round, the process will be a lot easier, because most of the information can be saved, as it will be the same for every event they request (proof of insurance, approved parade route, etc.)

The next item on the agenda was the matter of Flag Day, which is June 14; a small flag-raising ceremony will take place at the City Hall Plaza.

The 4th of July will be celebrated with the raising of the "Betsy Ross" flag (13 stars for the 13 original colonies.) There will be a short speech and a reading of the introduction of the Declaration of Independence.

The American Legion has a new commander.

DAV input is on hold, as L. Chipola was not present.

There was no update from the VFW.

The Mayor had no updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM/1520

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 14, 2025.

