



Johnstown Events Committee
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 - 4:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Ben Lee called to order the Events Committee for March 10, 2021 at 4:30 pm

Members Present - Benjamin Lee, Janet Piper, Doug Lehner (joined during)
Absent - None

Village Staff present - Mayor Chip Dutcher, Police Chief Haroon, Teresa Monroe

Public present - Brian Bemiller, Bruce Tolle, Fire Chief Wright

2. Fireworks Event 2021

a. Discussion and Alignment

Ben Lee recapped 2020 attempts to schedule the Fireworks Event; the contract with fireworks company Hamburg was pushed to July 3rd, 2021 for a 4th of July celebration. Financially as it stands, the American Legion has paid their portion that encompassed Village proceeds donation to the Legion. \$4,700 of the \$5,000 contract is paid for this year; the \$300 balance is the difference in a price increase for this year, Mr. Lee said it is not a problem to cover that from the village side. All attendees indicated favor of holding the Fireworks Event on July 3, 2021.

Mr. Lee said previously Mayor Dutcher brought up the potential for combining a city designation celebration along with this event but with the Census results being delayed, a July celebration for that in conjunction with the 4th of July event probably is not feasible.

Mr. Lee said he wanted to get the pulse of where everyone stood with the comfortability of hosting a July 4th event this year on July 3rd; he noted that from the Events Committee standpoint there is a strong desire to have something, a fireworks event, some kind of celebration because of everything that was lost last year. Mr. Lee said if that too is the majority desire, then the focus is on executing it safely and with current health measures in mind. Chief Haroon said he was fine with that plan on his end; Chief Wright said they have no issues either, noted a longstanding request for scene security from the sponsoring organization, not the police but patrolling the perimeter in a civilian manner. Mayor Dutcher said the date of July 3rd will work and by then there will be further notification from the State on gatherings; added that the Health Department reported that Licking County COVID numbers continue to fall drastically and vaccinations are increasing. Brian Bemiller said he does not have issues either; agreed that if the Youth League is used as a launch site then the security will be an even bigger factor considering there are two ways into the park. Chief Haroon said he is trying to secure funds to purchase a drone that could use thermal imaging to determine the perimeter (of the exclusion zone) is safe. Mr. Lee said in previous conversations with JYAA there was a commitment from them to secure the perimeter that is on their property, discussed having gators to patrol as well as volunteers to walk perimeter to ensure there is no incursion on that space. Chief Haroon indicated ability to secure the blast zone from the school side boundary, would like to take another look at the map as event gets closer to finalize a security plan.

Mr. Lee said there would need to be a Resolution passed by JYAA allowing the use of their property as the launch site. The exclusion zone was reduced from 600 to 500 feet by using a

smaller shell which also allows for a more robust show for the same budget.

b. Event Scope

Mr. Lee said he would circle back with School Board President Tim Swauger to make sure the stadium is still a viable option to use as a formal viewing location. Spoke to Jeremy with JYAA, said they will use their parking lot and charge admission to use as a contribution to the American Legion for what they put toward the event.

Mr. Lee asked if there were any comments or concerns from attendees with regard to the scope of the event; there is a desire to have food trucks, to forgo any rides, in favor of going as big as possible depending on what limitations the State still has in force. Mayor Dutcher mentioned having the school band play or the choir sing, and since their facility is being used to check with them first and give them a platform.

Ms. Piper asked about Little Miss Firecracker or Miss Johnstown; Mr. Lee said those events were not a village decision although historically the winners have attended the Fireworks Event in some capacity; Mr. Tolle said there has been no planning on those by the Legion as of now. Brian Bemiller said the Firemen's Festival is being planned this year for June 23-26, they do have a contract with a ride company but is dependent on the State opening up; parade would be on Saturday. Discussion on potential for any additional funds or donations that would be collected and how the American Legion could use.

Mr. Lee said he would work to connect with the School and JYAA offline and bring them up to speed.

c. Set next meeting

Mr. Lee will circulate an email when there is a need to meet again.

3. Other Business

1. Janet Piper said there is a lot of trash down by the creek and in the trees (between the Pedestrian Bridge and Pulte); the village previously provided trash bags for cleanup; discussion on spring cleanup events

4. Adjourn

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm