



50th ANNUAL
4th OF JULY PARADE 2021
Thursday, March 18th -- 5:00 p.m.
City Garage
1322 Hillside Drive

1. Discussion on a reversed/drive-thru Parade for 2021
 - a. Survey results

2. Other Business

In accordance with the provisions of 5 ILCS 120 (The Illinois Open Meetings Act), notice is hereby given that a majority of a quorum of the West Peoria City Council and/or its Committees, may be in attendance at the **West Peoria 4th of July Parade meeting** on this date at West Peoria City Hall. This event is designed to discuss City matters regarding the 4th of July Parade.



4th of July Meeting
West Peoria City Garage
1322 N. Hillside Court
Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Attendees: Mayor Dillon, City Administrator Kinga Krider, Office Assistant Pam Zych, City Clerk Margie Barnes, Alderpersons LeRoy Dohm, Zak Edmonds, Jerry Meisner, Scott Ruskusky; WPRA President Bonnie Farrell, Residents Priscilla Peterson, Carole Stephens, Marilyn Anders; and Alderperson John Siewert remotely.

Mayor Dillon explained that the meeting was called to update people who have helped in the past with the Parade and determine whether or how to proceed with our 50th annual 4th of July Parade this year. A survey was sent out and posted on the City website to all past participants asking if they would participate in a “reversed/drive through” parade. Results: 19 YES, 15 NO, and 6 Other (i.e., will not participate due to the virus; other plans made since canceled last year, etc.)

The following are highlights of the discussion:

- As of right now current mitigations are at Phase 4, State guidelines may progress to Phase 5, but it will take a minimum of 28 days once 70% vaccinated in Illinois.
- The Peoria County Health Department was consulted, and their recommendation was the reverse parade.
- Wheaton, IL is having a 4th of July Parade this year, and they are going to limit the number of entries and requiring all participants to be in a vehicle or on a float, no walkers, lengthening the route and encouraging social distancing. They are still in the final phase of planning and subject to any State restrictions that could cause altering the plan.
- There are numerous intricacies involved in a reverse/drive-thru event.
- The Peoria St. Pat’s Parade was cancelled due to lack of participants.
- The Peoria Labor Day Parade information is conflicting as this time.
- Lot of time and organization goes into having the Parade.
- Our City’s insurance will cover a reversed/drive thru parade.
- Sheriff’s Department is on board in providing security.
- By July, more people will be vaccinated and feel more comfortable.
- Something similar to the Peoria Santa Claus Parade was suggested.
- Limiting the number of participants, turning down an entry or walking group was not favored.
- A smaller number of participants would be okay, but if we cannot have close to normal numbers, it was felt we should wait since it will be the 50th anniversary and would like to have a big celebration.

General consensus was that a traditional 4th of July Parade, as in the past, is preferred, while following State guidelines.

Action: Will continue to research other Illinois communities to see if, and how, they plan to hold Memorial Day or 4th of July Parades. Kewanee was suggested as a good contact as they hold many festivals/events. Need to set a firm deadline date for committee and our community.

Action: Monica Hendrickson, Peoria County Health Administrator, will be provided with a definitive 4th of July Parade plan that spells out what precautionary measures will be taken to ensure following current CDC guidelines during the event. Suggested having a Plan A and Plan B to present to her.

Action: Another survey was suggested to determine number of potential participants if a traditional parade is held.

Marilyn Anders offered that she and Dan Morse will be available to assist with this year's Parade if held.

The importance of following State guidelines for future government funding to municipalities was acknowledged.

Mayor offered that he invited Governor Pritzker to join our Parade this year when he was at Heddington Oaks last month.

The volunteers were commended for their hard work in making the 4th of July Parades successful. 2019 was a great Parade.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.



Pam Zych

