

# RHINELANDER FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

The Rhinelander Independence Day Parade took place Tuesday, July 4 in downtown Rhinelander. Scores of businesses and organizations participated in the event. Prior to the main parade, the Rhinelander Lions Club held its annual Kiddie Parade featuring bike, trike, costume and pet divisions.

PHOTOS BY JEREMY MAYO & BOB MAINHARDT | RIVER NEWS



## Amphitheater

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She stressed that she “loves music just like everybody else” and not every performance at the new amphitheater has been excessively loud, but high-volume shows may negatively impact people who like to have their windows open in the summer.

As council rules dictate that alderpersons and city administration refrain from responding to remarks made during public comment, there was no immediate response to the noise complaint.

However, at the end of the meeting when Mayor Kris Hanus asked the alderpersons if they had a future agenda items, alderperson Carrie Mikalauski stated that the council should ad-

dress the concern about noise levels during amphitheater performances.

In other business, the council also discussed the question of whether an American flag should be posted near the amphitheater so that concert attendees have something to salute when the national anthem is played.

Alderman Tom Barnett explained that he was contacted by local veterans who noticed there was no flag for them to salute when the national anthem was performed.

“It would be nice for them to have something to salute and look at,” he said.

Council members appeared very interested in installing a flag at the amphitheater but quickly learned it might not be as simple a task as it might seem.

“You need to decide how you’re going to do this. There is flag etiquette,” noted city attorney Steve Sorenson. “I would certainly advocate that a flag be available but I think that you do need to put groups that want to use the flag, or to use the facility, give them the responsibility of taking the flag, putting it up and taking it down, unless you’re going to put a permanent flagpole in the park that’s lit and then you can get exceptions for inclement weather etc....”

Alderman David Holt suggested his colleagues make sure “we have all our i’s dotted and t’s crossed because many, many people in this community take this very seriously when you are displaying an American flag.”

Alderman Steven Jopek wanted to know if a flag was flying near the baseball fields as service members

and veterans are used to saluting in the direction of the flag.

“Military members, at least in my experience, are pretty consistently familiar with the ability to locate their flag and if we can figure out if there’s a flag at the baseball diamonds it’s in the general vicinity where salutes can be rendered should they want to,” he noted.

City finance director Wendi Bixby interjected to confirm there is a flag at the baseball diamonds.

“It’s right in the middle of where all three fields are,” she said.

City council president Eileen Daniel observed that the resolution was not very clear.

She noted that it requests that a flag be displayed at public events and performances but does not request installation of a flagpole.

Given that, she wondered if a flag holder would suffice. That way groups could place a flag in the holder when performances are held.

Jopek noted that that flags can also be attached to rafters as seen in the Hodag Dome.

“There’s a multitude of approaches,” he noted. “It depends on fancy you want to be.”

As the discussion continued it was suggested that the council table the matter to allow time for additional research.

“I don’t want to make it seem like we’re saying no to the American flag, because that’s not what happening,” Jopek said. “But just to figure out what are the costs, what are the expectations, what can AMVETS help us with, those kinds of things.”

Both topics are expected to be revisited in the future.