



City Council Agenda July 16, 2026

Minutes Resolution

Action Item

Agenda Description:

Discussion and receive an update regarding the July 3, 2026, America's 250th Celebration.

Background Information:

The Joshua America's 250th Celebration was an overwhelming success and, by all estimates, the largest event ever held by the City of Joshua.

Based on attendance throughout the evening, viewing area capacity, vendor participation, and parking utilization, staff estimates attendance at 5,000+ attendees. Residents and visitors from Joshua and surrounding communities gathered to celebrate this historic occasion, creating an atmosphere of patriotism, community pride, and unity.

Event Highlights

Vendors and Food Trucks

The event featured approximately **138 vendors and food trucks**, making it one of the largest community gatherings ever hosted in Joshua. Feedback from vendors and food truck operators was overwhelmingly positive. Many reported exceeding their sales expectations and achieving some of their best event revenues to date.

Kids Zone

The free Kids Zone remained busy from opening until it was closed prior to the drone show. Families utilized the attractions and activities throughout the evening, creating a family-friendly environment that was enjoyed by attendees of all ages.

Entertainment

Live entertainment was a key component of the celebration. Staff received numerous compliments regarding the band, with many attendees commenting on the quality of the performance and the energy it brought to the event.

Several citizens shared that Joshua's celebration compared to, and in some cases exceeded, Independence Day events they had attended in much larger communities.

Freedom Tribute

While the overall event was a tremendous success, one of the most meaningful and rewarding portions of the evening was the **Joshua Freedom Tribute** honoring veterans, active-duty service members, and military families.

Following the event, staff received numerous emails, phone calls, messages, and personal comments expressing appreciation for the tribute. Veterans and their families consistently shared how much the recognition meant to them.

One particularly memorable moment occurred before the ceremony when a veteran attending the event was asked where she would like to sit with her family. She quietly responded that she was alone. Staff reassured her that she was not alone and reminded her that the entire community had gathered to honor and celebrate the sacrifices of veterans such as herself. The interaction served as a powerful reminder of the purpose and impact of the Freedom Tribute.

Another meaningful element of the ceremony was the Missing Man Chair display. Throughout the evening, many attendees visited the display to pay their respects. Citizens paused to read the information, reflect, and honor those who never returned home. The steady stream of visitors demonstrated the community's deep respect for service members and their families.

The most rewarding aspects of the Freedom Tribute were often the simple moments, the conversations, expressions of gratitude, and acts of respect that occurred throughout the evening. These moments created lasting memories and reinforced the importance of recognizing those who have served our nation.

Drone Show

The evening concluded with Joshua's first-ever drone show. As the show began, attendees responded with enthusiastic applause, cheers, and chants of "USA! USA! USA!" The excitement and pride displayed by the crowd reflected the significance of the event and provided a memorable conclusion to the celebration.

The drone show was met with overwhelmingly positive feedback and served as a fitting finale to America's 250th celebration.

Conclusion

The success of Joshua's America's 250th Celebration was made possible through the collective efforts of city staff, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, community partners, elected officials, and

citizens. Despite having less than two months to plan and organize an event of this magnitude, the community came together to create an experience that exceeded expectations.

The event not only celebrated America's 250th birthday but also highlighted the pride, unity, and community spirit that make Joshua a special place to call home.

Staff extends sincere appreciation to the Mayor and City Council for their support, to our sponsors and volunteers for their commitment, and to the thousands of attendees who helped make this historic celebration a tremendous success.

Financial Information:

See Report

City Contact and Recommendations:

Alice Holloway, City Secretary

Attachments:

1. Report