



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Dylan Mulfinger
Subject: SummerFest
Date: 3/10/2025

The Oelwein SummerFest provided an update on their event plan at the February 24 work session for the city council. The SummerFest will take place July 12, 2025 and be a one day event. The event is focused on children with adult activities for the evening. The committee discussed having the parade in the park and downtown. I have the following concerns:

- The new committee made a commitment with the same wrestling company who left Oelwein high and dry in 2024. While I am not aware of the whole story, nor do I want to be, the fact remains that public dollars went toward an event which was not provided, and no refund was provided. Entering into an agreement with a wrestling company again is not a good look for this new committee.
- The committee has moved the date around and is seeking city assistance and resources. This is not an issue, and the city wants to support events, but the city is usually aware of the event before the start of the year. Summer is a busy time for staff to be away from work and pulling together resources to ensure proper support is difficult.
- This year the community's energy is being consumed by RAGBRAI. Oelwein has an excellent opportunity with providing an event for the community. The number of resources and volunteers for this event will be massive. Trying to do an event two weeks before this may be hard for any organization. I believe it is the best interest of the community to focus on RAGBRAI.

While I commend the volunteers who have dedicated their time to SummerFest, I cannot recommend to the city council support this year. I believe Oelwein will be ready for a local summer event in 2026. This recommendation has been difficult as two members of the SummerFest committee are city council members.