



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Request for Council Action - Resolution No. 24 for 2020, Harvest Festival Road Closure

Preferred Agenda: September 8, 2020 (canceled)
September 22, 2020

Submitted By: Angela Clegg, Associate Planner

Reviewed By: R. Towry, City Manager

Type of Action: Resolution X Motion X Roll Call Other

Relevant Code/Policy: SHMC 10.04.030 Powers of the City Council

Towards Council Goal: GOAL #2 – Be and Effective and Efficient Government; 4. Develop transparency in all communication.
GOAL #3. Essential Services; 7. Look for methods to improve community safety.

Attachments: Resolution
Road Closure Notification
COVID entry map

Purpose of this RCA:

Request for City Council to adopt the attached Resolution concerning a temporary street closure during the Harvest Festival at Sankey Park on October 5, 2019. The closure would allow the Harvest Festival visitors an area with reduced safety issues associated with pedestrians and vehicles.

Background/Context:

The 14th Annual Harvest Festival event is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2020 at Sankey Park on 14th Avenue. Staff is expecting a large turnout at the event in addition to vendors who will be setting up in the park area prior to the event. It is recommended that pass-thru traffic be rerouted away from this area. Residential access would be allowed. Participants would be instructed to park in parking lots nearby and the City will open upper Sankey Park to use as a parking lot for the event. Vendors would be instructed to park in the designated parking lots. Handicapped participants shall be directed to the rear parking lot of the Evangelical Church and will be shuttled to the entrance of the festival. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions we won't be allowing any parking for the festival along 14th Avenue or in the lower Sankey Park parking lots.

If approved, letters will be sent to the homes along 14th Avenue informing them of this event and the subsequent closure. Traffic would continue to be allowed along Hawthorne, Grape and Fir Streets.

To comply with COVID-19 restrictions there will be only one entry point into the park with three separate gates to access three separate events. Fencing will be provided by the Public Works Department to separate the sections and to separate in the ingress and egress of the main entry path. There will only be 250 people allowed in each section at a time, that includes vendors and staff. There will be a method for counting participants in each section so that there will not be more than 250 people in each event area at one time. (see the attached COVID entry map for details). All participants, including volunteers, must enter and exit each section through the section gate. If the 250 capacity has been reached in a section no other individual may enter until someone has left that section. Each event area will monitor their section per the COVID-19 regulations. There will be hand sanitizer and masks provided at each entry gate in case participants don't have them.

Section 1 is the Harvest Festival sponsored by the City of Sweet Home. This area includes the vendors, the new playground, the pie bake-off competition, and a free hotdog booth. No vendors are allowed on the bridge due to the distancing requirements.

Section 2 is a fundraiser for the Maynard and Swenson families sponsored by the Road Maggot motorcycle group. This section will include music, food vendors, a beer booth, and a chili cook-off. The Road Maggots will be providing the volunteers for this section and will be monitoring the area for COVID-19 compliance. All proceeds from this event will go to the families.

Section 3 is a cornhole tournament and fundraiser for the Maynard and Swenson families sponsored by the Linn County Cornhole Association. This section includes the cornhole tournament. The Linn County Cornhole Association will be providing the volunteers for this section and will be monitoring the area for COVID-19 compliance. 25% of the proceeds from this tournament will go toward the families.

The Challenge/Problem:

How do we ensure the safety of participants related to traffic congestion during the Harvest Festival?

Stakeholders:

- City of Sweet Home residents located around Sankey Park.
- Participants, families and vendors attending the event.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

1. Residents Adjacent to the Street Closure – Residents in the area would be notified of the closure.
2. Police Department – notified of event for possible traffic issues.
3. Fire Department – notified of the event in case services are needed.
4. Street Department – staff has helped during past events with set up of event site, delivering signage and equipment, picking up signage and tear down of the event.
5. Planning and Community Development – organizing and hosting the event.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

Consideration of safety for event attendees, while not inconveniencing local neighbors for a significant length of time.

Options:

1. Do Nothing – staff shall allow traffic on 14th Avenue.

2. Approve Resolution No. 24 for 2020 as presented concerning street closures and restrictions for the 2020 Harvest Festival.
3. Recommend different traffic control methods on 14th Avenue. Staff would work with the Sweet Home Police Department and the Public Works Department to revise the traffic control plan.

Recommendation:

Staff Recommends Option 2: Resolution No. 24 for 2020 as presented concerning street closures and restrictions for the 2020 Harvest Festival.