

Elsen, Nikki

From: Kathleen Ryan <ryantigo@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 1:16 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Cc: Lehrke, Teri; Elsen, Nikki; Pat Stephens
Subject: Request to Delay Special Events Procedures

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Re: Special Events Procedures
Ordinance 19-1103 Creating Policies & Procedures
Ordinance 19-1113 Resolution Determining Fees

Dear City Council Members,

Since all festivals and organizations that sponsor special events and parades in our community have not had adequate time to review these procedures, new ordinances and the application, I am recommending that further votes be delayed until more input can be provided.

These changes are currently scheduled to be approved at the Oct. 1 Judiciary & Admin and the Oct. 3 Finance & Personnel meetings this week. Some of the festivals and organizations only heard about these changes last week and although I do thank Nikki for presenting the procedures at the meeting at the La Crosse Convention and Visitors Bureau last week, more time is needed.

I realize that Nikki and others have put a great deal of research and work into these procedures, but festivals and organizations were not contacted during the early work on these changes. We only heard about the procedures and application after they had been developed. I do like the fact that now have somewhere to look to see exactly what we are required to have.

The majority of the festivals are non-profit organizations, most of which are operated strictly with volunteers. The new procedures will create a great deal of additional work for these volunteers, as well as an additional cost to many of the events. These festivals, parades and events bring thousands of people and millions of dollars into the City of La Crosse but it feels as if we are being punished by having additional fees and work put upon us!

One of the explanations for the increased fees was to cover additional staff time. The city staff are already budgeted for and paid for by our taxes. The millions of dollars brought into the community should certainly cover the staff time involved in the necessary approvals.

Therefore, I am again requesting that these ordinances be delayed until more of the festivals and organizations have had adequate time to review and give their input on these significant changes.

Thank you!
Sincerely,

Kathleen Ryan
Irishfest La Crosse
ryantigo@msn.com