



**Regular Meeting Date: November 4, 2020**

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Mike Leslie, Interim Director  
**Date:** October 23, 2020

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Legislative  Quasi-Judicial

**SUBJECT:**

Discussion of the City of Naples Christmas Parade and New Year's Eve Fireworks annual special events and provide direction.

**SUMMARY:**

This is a discussion regarding the annual City of Naples Christmas Parade and New Year's Eve Fireworks.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Naples Annual Christmas Parade is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 starting at 6:00 p.m. and the New Year's Eve Fireworks is scheduled to occur on Thursday, December 31, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. on a barge approximately 1,000 feet north of the Pier and 1,000 feet offshore.

Due to the ongoing nature of COVID-19 pandemic and an increasing number of confirmed cases in Collier County, City staff have held several meetings to discuss the City of Naples Christmas Parade and the New Year's Eve Fireworks.

**Issues and concerns related to offering these two events:**

- If held, face coverings for all spectators should be mandatory for both events where social distancing is not available.
- Staff spoke to Stephanie Vick with the Collier County Health Department, and she believes that Collier County will still be facing COVID related concerns in December. She recommends avoiding large crowds but if these two events are held she highly recommends wearing face masks at these public events where social distancing will be very difficult if impossible to achieve and even then she warns there would be an increased health risk.
- Naples PD will be unable to legally and practically enforce mandatory face coverings especially since social distancing will be difficult to achieve with a large number of attendees.
- Collier County School District High School Bands do not have a final approval at this time to participate in the Christmas Parade, but they do believe that if they are given permission to participate, the numbers of participating students will be greatly reduced.
- Recommend eliminate the handing out/throwing of candy, trinkets, pamphlets and other items at the Christmas Parade to avoid cross contamination.

- General concerns over the overall Health and Safety of the participants, spectators, and City personnel during the execution of these events.
- Concerns over the Levels of Enforcement if protocols are not followed at both events.
- Both events tend to draw visitors from outside of Collier County increasing the risk for a potential outbreak locally.
- There is potential liability to the City if an illness occurs at these two large City-organized and City-run events or if a confrontation occurs due to heightened emotions between the attendees.

**NYE Fireworks Funding Background:** The New Year’s Eve (NYE) Fireworks began when Art Allen, who owned ASG at the time, offered to donate funds for the purchase of the fireworks provided the City would fund any other costs associated with the event. City Council agreed to fund other expenses. Prior to the request from Mr. Allen, the City did not have a NYE fireworks display. When ASG no longer supported the NYE Fireworks, Naples Backyard History agreed to donate \$25,000 per year to fund the cost of the fireworks. The City continues to fund the remaining expenses including the barge rental, staff costs, etc. Judy Bishop with the Naples Backyard History reports that due to COVID-19 their donations have been very low this year, so they do not have the funds for the 2020. The \$25,000 cost for the fireworks is included in the FY21 Beach Fund budget, however, the offsetting revenues of \$25,000 anticipated when the budget was developed and approved, would not be received by the City.

Backyard History will inform the City if it will have sufficient donations in the future to fund NYE Fireworks in 2021.

The table below provides an estimated attendance for the parade and fireworks display should occur as planned.

<b>Christmas Parade Attendance:</b>	10,000 estimated
<b>NYE Fireworks Attendance:</b>	25,000 estimated

The table below provides an estimated cost summary for the parade and fireworks display should the events occur as planned.

<b>Christmas Parade Expenses:</b>	\$ 15,000
<b>NYE Fireworks Display:</b> <i>(\$25,000 Fireworks + \$30,000 for Barge)</i>	\$ 55,000
<b>NYE Fireworks Staff Expenses:</b>	\$ 20,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 95,000</b>

**Christmas Parade Options:**

1. Cancel the Christmas Parade – Staff will notify last year’s participants, all other contacts and place on City’s website
2. Approve the Christmas Parade to be held on December 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. – Staff will notify last year participants, all other contacts and quickly place the Entry Form and Rules on the City’s website and begin the registration process and start preparations. Limit Parade to 80 entries. Staff will need direction to proceed no later than November

4<sup>th</sup> in order to properly plan and coordinate the parade. There is not enough time to coordinate a special theme contest with local schools which has been the case over the past several years.

**Fireworks Options:**

1. Cancel the NYE Fireworks –Staff will notify Zambelli, Barge company, etc., and cancel event. There will be a cost savings to satisfy the loss in Revenues.
2. Approve the NYE Fireworks – Staff will notify Zambelli, Barge company, etc., and start event preparations. There will be a reduction of \$25,000 in Revenues to support the cost of the fireworks the Backyard History Group cannot donate \$25,000 this year.
  - o **Zambelli Fireworks provided the following deadlines:**
    - Cancellation of Fireworks on or before December 1, 2020 = No charge
    - Cancellation of Fireworks after December 1, 2020 = Revert to terms of contract which is a maximum charge of 50% of fireworks (=\$12,500) plus barge fees (=\$30,000) totaling \$42,500 cancellation charge.

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

- NYE Fireworks and Barge expenses of \$55,000 is funded in the approved FY21 Beach Maintenance operating budget line item 430.1017.545.549050. Loss of anticipated revenue is \$25,000.
- Fireworks and Parade staffing expenses are funded in the approved FY21 Department operating budgets (Police, Fire, Community Services, Utilities).

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Out of an abundance of caution and potential increased status of Covid-19's community spread, along with the inability to provide adequate public safety from Covid-19, City staff recommends cancelling the City of Naples Christmas Parade and the New Year's Eve Fireworks.