

Dan Hoffman ([00:05](#)):

Hello, and welcome to another edition of the Rouss Review. I'm your City Manager, Dan Hoffman. And with me is Communications Director, Amy Simmons. Hello, Amy.

Amy Simmons ([00:12](#)):

Hello, Dan.

Dan Hoffman ([00:13](#)):

Did you have a good Blossom?

Amy Simmons ([00:14](#)):

I did. Yeah. I love the weather.

Dan Hoffman ([00:16](#)):

It was very nice.

Amy Simmons ([00:18](#)):

I bet you had your first introduction.

Dan Hoffman ([00:20](#)):

It was the first real Blossom. I keep telling folks that, obviously, last year didn't really count. It was kind of COVID impacted. And the one that I think I might have gone to 20 years ago, I don't remember very well if I went at all it was a long time ago.

Amy Simmons ([00:40](#)):

Totally different back then anyway.

Dan Hoffman ([00:41](#)):

Very different. Yeah. It was a different time in life for me too.

Amy Simmons ([00:45](#)):

<Laughs>

Dan Hoffman ([00:46](#)):

So I'm just gonna consider this my first Apple Blossom. But it was lovely. The weather...

Amy Simmons ([00:53](#)):

Ideal.

Dan Hoffman ([00:53](#)):

It was so perfect for it. And with that event, clearly, weather makes a huge difference. So, but it was great to see everybody out and I hope everybody enjoyed it. And everybody was super well behaved.

Amy Simmons (01:07):

<Laugh> Always nice to hear.

Dan Hoffman (01:08):

Only 11 people went to drunk tank. And normally it's way higher.

Amy Simmons (01:12):

Awesome.

Dan Hoffman (01:14):

Thank you residents and visitors for being on great behavior and having a good time. And now it's back to work. So we have a meeting tomorrow. Pretty reasonable agenda. No work session tomorrow. We've got a few small administrative things. We're adjusting the amount of some permit fees, a couple small changes to how we mail things. So nothing super exciting. But one thing that folks might wanna take a look at is an update to our Sidewalk Master Plan. Sidewalks are a big deal here and this will help guide a lot of our investments in sidewalks for years to come. And if you're curious about why some sidewalks may be higher in the list than others, we do go out and walk every sidewalk. We look at the condition of the sidewalk relative to other sidewalks and that's how we make those decisions. If you're ever curious about that, please feel free to contact our Public Services Department. And then, the big thing is we'll have first reading for our budget ordinance. We've been talking about this for quite a while. Same deal as past years. Council will be considering two different versions. One that includes a small meals tax increase of half a percent, and another version that has no increases at all. One would provide a higher salary increase for employees, and the other would still include a salary increase for employees, but we're talking about a couple percent different. So that's what the Council's gonna be weighing tomorrow night in the meeting. So, what do you got going on?

Amy Simmons (03:02):

Well, got a few things. Just want another reminder that the next park input meeting is on May 23rd. Staff will be gathering input on usage and suggested improvements, but this time they're gonna be talking about parks and ward three. You don't have to live in ward three to go to this one, but they're just gonna focus on those neighborhood parks. And this held at Jim Barnett Park in the Rec Center at 5:30 PM. So, stop by. It's only gonna be for an hour. You can stop by and give your input on those parks. And I should mention that the online survey is still available. You can check that out on the park website. And then we recently released the 2021 annual report. That's online now. You can check that out. And our utilities crew is still flushing hydrants throughout the city. They will continue that through October. And I just wanna remind everybody that's happening because it can cause some clouding in your water. It's temporary. It's harmless. All you have to do is just flush your faucets for a few minutes and that'll clear it out. Let's see, we can mark your calendars for the annual Employer Expo Hiring Fair. That's on May 25th from 2:00 to 6:00 PM. That is also at the Jim Barnett Park Rec Center. And they expect to have over 50 companies participating. So it should be a good event and they're gonna have ASL and Spanish translators also available. The next Community Cleanup, which I've mentioned before, is going to be on May 28th at 8:00 AM. We're going to two locations. We're going back to friendship park to finish up there and also Legge Boulevard next to mall, Apple Blossom Mall. We'll supply some supplies <laughs>, bags, gloves, pickers, and we just need some volunteers for that. So that'd be awesome. May 14th is the last day to register for the park's dog training class. Does your dog need some training?

Dan Hoffman ([04:49](#)):

He does, but he's gotta accept the fact that he's not perfect. First, you gotta be open to feedback before you can actually take that feedback. And I don't think Murdock's open to feedback in the way he does anything. So no, I don't think...

Amy Simmons ([05:07](#)):

You're not gonna sign up, huh?

Dan Hoffman ([05:08](#)):

No, I'm not gonna sign up for that. I'm just gonna hope that one day, you know, he realizes that continual improvement is also for dogs, but I think he thinks he's pretty perfect, right now. And I tend to agree.

Amy Simmons ([05:20](#)):

Okay. Well for other non-perfect dogs out there, classes are held on Saturday mornings for four weeks and it starts later this month. So sign up by May 14th. And your dog as be at least four months old. Moving on since your dog is so perfect.

Dan Hoffman ([05:37](#)):

He is.

Amy Simmons ([05:38](#)):

Saturday, May 14th, which is this Saturday, is KidzFest. It is back.

Dan Hoffman ([05:42](#)):

KidzFest.

Amy Simmons ([05:43](#)):

Yes. It's for all ages, but generally for, you know, elementary, middle school kind of kids.

Dan Hoffman ([05:48](#)):

Yeah. So not for the young at heart.

Amy Simmons ([05:51](#)):

Yes. Families. Best for families.

Dan Hoffman ([05:53](#)):

Best for families with smaller kids. Don't bring your 17 year old out to color.

Amy Simmons ([05:58](#)):

Hey, you never know. It's gonna focus on arts and hands-on activities, that kind of thing from 12 to 5:00 PM. There's lots of activities for everybody to enjoy on the Loudoun Street Mall. But while you're there,

we hope that you will take this opportunity to visit many of the amazing shops in restaurants in downtown.

Dan Hoffman ([06:15](#)):

Absolutely.

Amy Simmons ([06:16](#)):

That's it. And happy Mother's Day to all those mothers out there.

Dan Hoffman ([06:19](#)):

That's right. Happy Mother's Day. Yeah.

Amy Simmons ([06:21](#)):

We're a day late.

Dan Hoffman ([06:22](#)):

Yeah. Yesterday. Did you do anything? Your mom was in town recently, so you already celebrated.

Amy Simmons ([06:28](#)):

I did. We already spent lots of time together.

Dan Hoffman ([06:31](#)):

It sounds like you spent enough time together.

Amy Simmons ([06:33](#)):

One week is enough. Yeah.

Dan Hoffman ([06:34](#)):

Oh, okay. Gotcha.

Amy Simmons ([06:35](#)):

It was great.

Dan Hoffman ([06:35](#)):

Good thing this podcast is not broadcast in Georgia.

Amy Simmons ([06:38](#)):

<Laughs>

Dan Hoffman ([06:40](#)):

All right. So we're about to shift gears and talk about animals.

Amy Simmons ([06:43](#)):

This transcript was exported on May 09, 2022 - view latest version [here](#).

Yay.

Dan Hoffman ([06:43](#)):

Stick around for part two, the City Works portion of this podcast. If not, that's your loss and we'll see you around City Hall. Otherwise, hop on to Part Two.