



Lowell City Council

Neighborhoods SC May 26, 2020 Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: May 26, 2020
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Zoom/Remote Participation

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Rourke, C. Mercier and C. Nuon. Others present were Jared Alves (DPD); Christine McCall (DPD); Terry Ryan (Parking); C. Samaras; Manager Donoghue; C. Drinkwater; and C. Conway.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Rourke called the meeting to order noting attendance.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Ms. McCall presented a power point entitle "Temporary Outdoor Seating" which outlined process and procedures to assist downtown businesses during re-opening stages of their establishments. Ms. McCall covered a variety of topics by way of the presentation which included purpose of the ordinance; previous efforts to assist businesses; overview of program requirements; review of eligible areas; application and review process; and final steps for implementation. C. Rourke requested work begin before final passage of ordinance. Ms. McCall noted that they have the ability to reach out to businesses in the City. C. Mercier commented on the plan and noted that safety is a concern with outdoor seating. C. Nuon noted the need to assist all businesses in the City. Ms. McCall noted various means being used by the department to assist small businesses which included technical assistance and SBA loan assistance. C. Rourke commented on the phased opening and questioned strategy to work within those parameters. Manager Donoghue noted the phased opening have many restrictions attached to them. Manager Donoghue commented on pending legislation which would assist business in stream lining application processes for their establishments. C. Rourke noted effort should be made to get people out and downtown during openings. Manager Donoghue noted different strategies being explored, including the closing of certain streets. C. Samaras questioned procedures used to assist people with technology. Ms. McCall noted the department was active in that assistance. C. Samaras recommended using experienced business people to help



navigate businesses through tough times. C. Conway noted our partnerships will be important in providing assistance to community. C. Chau noted the need to help businesses get back on track and questioned status of liquor licenses during this time. Ms. McCall noted that there is a longer process to change the parameters of your liquor license and the State legislature is attempting to ease those requirements. Registered speaker, Jack Moynihan, addressed the body. C. Rourke noted the process must be streamlines as to make it quicker. C. Nuon noted the need to be flexible with restrictions. C. Rourke requested overview of process to assist business moving forward. Ms. McCall outlined the procedures which includes application process; additional insurance; review; and approval. C. Rourke noted outreach should begin promptly so all are ready to go once ordinance is adopted. C. Rourke commented on assistance with takeout service for restaurants. Mr. Ryan noted success of the program and its use.

ADOURNMENT:

Motion "To Adjourn" by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
