



Burlington City Council Ordinance Committee - The meeting will be entirely Remote with Virtual Access: Link to join Via zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87373202983?pwd=dDN2UVIDeEU4anRaMjlpZ2VtelBvdz09> Password: 839113 Or

City Council Ordinance Committee – Wednesday, June 10, 2020,

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present: Councilor Chip Mason (Chair), Councilor Jack Hanson, Councilor Zoraya Hightower

Staff Present: Kim Sturtevant (Assistant City Attorney), Tim Devlin (Assistant City Attorney), Lisa Jones (City Attorney's Office), Caleb Manna (DPW), Norm Baldwin (DPW), Zach Williamson (BCA), Will Clavelle (CEDO)

Others in Attendance: Jacob Weinstein, Caitlin Kriv, Team Assessors

Meeting called to order at 5:07 PM.

1. Agenda

1.01 Motion to adopt/amend agenda

Motion to adopt agenda as written.

Motion by Councilor Hanson, seconded by Councilor Mason.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Councilor Mason, Councilor Hanson (Councilor Hightower had not yet joined)

1. Public Forum

i. Public Forum

No speakers.



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Closed public forum at 5:07 PM.

1. Minutes

i. Approval of Minutes of 6/2/20

Motion to approve minutes by Councilor Hanson, seconded by Councilor Mason.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Councilor Mason, Councilor Hanson (Councilor Hightower had not yet joined).

1. Committee Discussion/Possible Action

i. BCO Section 27-39, Public Health Emergencies; temporary suspension of obstruction requirements to accommodate economic stability

Norm Baldwin introduced the proposed ordinance amendment, indicating that staff heard from the Council and Mayor that they wanted the ordinance amendment. Three areas of impact: to provide temporary parking drop-off and pick-up, expand for wider walkways, and wider areas to support business. For business downtown as a whole and generally for the public.

Williamson indicated that he worked on third aspect of making space, closing streets. He talked to people about closure of streets for making space. Received feedback that Pine St. businesses don't want Pine St. closed. They indicated that they have parking areas and are okay. Businesses on N. Winooski Ave. gave a Luke warm response, maybe do a ramblesque thing there. Want to be good and helpful to business, but not a block party. Want restaurant and retail to be able to push out to street to be able to use the area. Downtown great if have more often, not helpful 3 times a week. Looking at Bank, College and Cherry Streets every Saturday for a certain amount of time. Purpose to help them. Proposed and discussed with DPW. Many things to look at, effects on traffic, etc. Also looking at other parking opportunities for free parking in downtown during weekend. Currently, no one downtown is hurting retail. Want to get people back on weekends. Will make sure for emergency access.

Norm Baldwin noted that the sidewalk expansion project is going slow but thinks businesses are ramping up. Caleb Manna does inspections, he will be reviewing and issuing permits. Chapin Spencer authorized to issue.

Jacob Weinstein, a resident senior at UVM, working with Jack Hanson this summer for sustainable Vt. Curious if anyone will be doing outreach to business? Through who--marketplace? Norm Baldwin responded that they have been marketing and Kara Alnasrawi has been/will be doing for Marketplace.



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Sturtevant read email from Sharon Bushor with concerns regarding impacts of accessibility for those with disabilities. Norm Baldwin replied that they do not have the ability to modify accessible space, only would be able to if go to Commission. Will also look closely at issue in future conversations of closing streets. Parking structures may pose issue of distance.

Councilor Hanson asked about getting the word out to businesses outside of the downtown that may not be aware. Businesses where there may be a language barrier. Norm Baldwin responded that CEDO has been reaching out. Will make sure they hear and see all the same opportunities.

Councilor Hanson asked whether liquor licenses will still be coming through liquor control? Zach Williamson responded that the idea was for it not to go through local liquor control; that it would go through Lori Olberg and the State of Vermont.

Councilor Hanson requested an explanation of what the Governor was doing with outside consumption. Tim Devlin replied that an entity with a liquor license already also submits with State/City, City has until mid-June to approve.

Councilor Hanson indicated that he was really excited about this, wanted to do this for some time, see it as a great way to repurpose spaces, especially right now. Getting people out in safe way-really great!

Councilor Hightower echoed the enthusiasm. She had the same question on outside of downtown, so echoed request regarding reaching out. She also inquired about the timeline, asking what the finite timeline was. Norm Baldwin responded that it was intended to be October 15 or 30, use for full summer with potential to extend if have continued issue. Tim Devlin added that sec. b of the ordinance set up the timeline, can be perennial so if emergency continues or reoccurs can activate again. 6 month post emergency declaration.

Councilor Mason asked if it was too long if from end of the emergency? Tim Devlin responded that if ended today can go into fall. Councilor Hightower asked about reoccurrence. Norm Baldwin replied that it was intended just for the summer season. Councilor Mason asked if there was a way to shorten, whether by Council resolution it could be pushed out? Councilor Hightower asked about setting a timeframe, suggesting Labor Day. Norm Baldwin identified October 31.

Councilor Hanson indicated his interest with doing it more often anyway. Trying to fast track.

Norm Baldwin noted that they wanted to make sure business know and have time to invest.

Councilor Hanson indicated he wanted to make it easier, but in terms of what we are doing right here, may not be





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mechanism. Councilor Mason agreed and suggested 3 months for timeline or otherwise do by resolution. Councilor Hightower reiterated her preference for Oct. 31 date certain.

Councilor Mason indicated that he saw it as a pilot, so not sure how it works. Feel better with up to 6 months and understand that Oct 31 end date. Council Hightower suggested amending with Oct. 31 date. Councilor Mason responded that he felt that the Mayor will activate by declaration and therefore, will put in end date. Provides certainty. Councilor Hightower agreed that made sense.

Councilor Hanson indicated that on that basis the original language may be best, noting he was okay with up to 6 months. Councilor Hightower referenced lines 74 through 77. Tim Devlin offered that it could be rephrased if looking to provide clarity that would last until Oct. 31. Councilor Mason noted that even now don't know end, Mayor could issue. Reality is that no one wants too long because of cold, line 16 clarify declared end of emergency. Councilor Hightower indicated that she liked just having date, but could also be perceived that have permit than can get next year. Norm Baldwin responded that they have to dismantle for winter months, can't stay, that's already built in.

Councilor Mason summarized that they are all on the same page and asked what others wanted to do. Councilor Hanson responded that he thought they are on the same page and that they highlighted concern so we are aware, when come up will know what to look for.

Hightower moved to refer the amendment as proposed back to full council for 2nd read with a recommendation for adoption. Seconded by Hanson.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Councilor Mason, Councilor Hanson, Councilor Hightower.

1. Any Other Business

Next meeting to be set by email.

1. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Hanson, seconded by Councilor Hightower.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes



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Yes: Councilor Mason, Councilor Hightower, Councilor Hanson

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.