

Administrative Committee



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Monday, July 27, 2020

4:30 PM

**Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Art Bettge, Maureen Laflin, Anne Zabala

OTHERS: Mayor Bill Lambert,

STAFF: Gary J. Riedner, Mia Bautista, Tyler Palmer, James Fry, Laurie M. Hopkins

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of the March 9, 2020 Administrative Committee Minutes (ACTION ITEM) -

Laurie M. Hopkins

Minutes presented for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approval minutes, amend minutes, or provide staff further direction.

The Committee approved the minutes as presented.

2. Downtown City Rights-of-Way Use Review (ACTION ITEM) - Gary J. Riedner

Moscow City Code Title 9, Chapter 12 regulates use of the public right-of-way (ROW) in the Central Business District Zone for sidewalk cafes. Due to the recent adverse economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the mandate of social distancing for businesses, particularly eating and drinking establishments, on June 1, 2020 the Moscow City Council adopted Resolution 2020-11, which suspended certain of the sidewalk cafe regulations, allowing for temporary expansion of use of the ROW.

Staff developed a program for permitting the temporary expansions of sidewalk cafes and many downtown businesses have participated in this program, and the City continues to field applications.

The City has had several requests for allowing live entertainment in the expanded sidewalk cafes, particularly live music. With the appropriate noise ordinance waiver review by the Police Department, music has been allowed in the ROW, although MCC 9.12 does not identify live entertainment and Resolution 2020-11 does not provide authorization for live entertainment.

Staff is seeking Council direction, as the City's own live entertainment programs have been suspended in order to reduce the risk of exposing patrons to COVID-19. Examples of these suspended programs include Entertainment in the Park concerts, Farmers Market entertainment, Art Walk, Vandal Town Block Party, etc.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Provide staff direction regarding the use of expanded sidewalk cafes.

Riedner introduced the item as written above. A press release was sent last week asking for public and downtown business input. Staff received 30 responses and approximately 9-10 of the business were not in favor of outdoor entertainment. The remainder of the businesses were either in favor or indifferent of the idea. Allowing live entertainment conflicts when other City sponsored outdoor entertainment has been cancelled. The Sidewalk Café Ordinance does not specifically state regulations for entertainment. One response from a business in favor of the music was it is safer for musicians to be outside than indoors. Riedner presented photos of some of the expanded cafe areas including traffic flow, and detailed each.

Laflin had concerns about live entertainment attracting more people and the need to be 26 feet away from a singer due to the spray of droplets while singing. Bettge added the main reason of the Sidewalk Café expansion was to maintain social distancing and including outdoor entertainment defeats that purpose. Committee consensus was to continue implementing the Sidewalk Café expansion, but not to allow live entertainment. If a business wishes to include live entertainment they can go through the community event application. Committee agrees to move discussion to full council with recommendation of not allowing live entertainment in the Sidewalk Café expansions.

ADJOURN

The meeting closed at 5:05 p.m.