

Administrative Committee



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

www.ci.moscow.id.us

Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Monday, August 9, 2021

4:00 PM

Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Brandy Sullivan, Sandra Kelly, Gina Taruscio

OTHERS: Mayor Bill Lambert, Council Member Art Bettge

STAFF: Mia Bautista, Gary Riedner, Bill Belknap, Jen Pfiffner, Tyler Palmer, Megan Cherry, Taylor Riedner

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of July 26, 2021 Administrative Committee Minutes (ACTION ITEM) - Taylor Riedner

The minutes were approved as presented.

2. Renewal of Intermodal Transit Center Lease with SMART Transit (ACTION ITEM) - Gary J. Riedner

The City currently leases space in the Intermodal Transit Center to Regional Public Transportation (RPT) dba SMART Transit. The initial lease was executed on September 4, 2012, and the term was three years, expiring on September 30, 2015. In 2016, an amendment extended the term of the original lease for an additional five (5) years, expiring on September 20, 2020. Due to an oversight on the part of both the City and SMART, the lease was not renewed prior to expiration. SMART has been occupying the Intermodal Transit Center under the terms of the prior lease, pending the negotiation of a new lease. The attached lease has been updated and prepared by the City Attorney and reviewed by SMART Transit Executive Director Ben Aiman and the SMART Transit Board.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of the Lease Agreement Between Regional Public Transportation (dba SMART Transit) and the City of Moscow, and approve of the Resolution authorizing said Lease, or provide staff further direction.

Riedner introduced the item as written above. The contract has been continued on a month-to-month basis since it was expired and the lease will renew at a 5-year term. Needing no further discussion, the Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council consent agenda.

3. Open Container Ordinance Revisions for Downtown Events (ACTION ITEM) – Gary J. Riedner / Mia Bautista

The City of Moscow has sponsored and approved community events such as Art Walk, and the Vandal Town Block Party, as well as the expansion of sidewalk cafés, and has approved events in downtown Moscow and in Moscow's parks where the City Council passed resolutions allowing for the vending and responsible consumption of beer and/or wine under certain conditions during an event. As the City Council wants to foster a vibrant downtown community atmosphere, and encourage and promote downtown businesses to collaborate in making these events successful, staff has been requested to review the process for the creation of an Entertainment District. Within the Entertainment District, community events could be held, and upon adoption of a resolution of the City Council, the sale and responsible consumption of beer and wine could occur. In order to allow the consumption of beer and wine outside of sidewalk cafés or a beer garden, the City would have to create an exemption to Moscow City Code 10-1-12, commonly known as the "open container" ordinance, which prohibits the possession of alcoholic beverages while present in a public place or a place where the public has

permitted access, including public streets and/or public rights-of-way in the City except in accordance with specific regulations adopted by the Council by Resolution.

The attached draft Ordinance contains necessary revisions to the Moscow City Code to allow the creation of an Entertainment District to be defined by the map attached to the draft Ordinance and to allow the inclusion of the Entertainment District as an additional exemption to the open container prohibition.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend adoption of the Ordinance creating the Entertainment District and including the Entertainment District as an additional exemption to the open container prohibition, or provide staff further direction.

Riedner provided that the origin of the request came from Mayor Lambert. In 2019, City Council implemented a beer garden process for events. Some of the larger events covering more areas, such as Artwalk, would benefit from the entertainment district. Beer and wine would still be vending under the state alcohol code. The entertainment district would allow individuals to roam within the designated area with an open container. Activities utilizing the entertainment district will still need to approach Council for approval. Both the City Clerk and City Attorney have been consulted with to confirm the public's use of right-of-way and alcohol regulations are still met.

Mayor Lambert shared his support in the entertainment district and explained how helpful it would be to the downtown businesses. He also reassured that Council will still be able to review each request as they come up.

Riedner shared that the map in the packet highlights the central business corridor and extends to nearby breweries. This covers the typical entertainment venues. However, the entire footprint may not be used for each event. Applicants must determine the areas they wish to utilize for each event, and Council will review it before approval. The City cannot change open container rules on state highways, and therefore the entertainment district is limited to areas of the City's public right-of-way and a safe distance away from traffic.

Bautista added the process the legal department took to stay adhered to the open container prohibition. All businesses selling alcohol are still required to follow their licenses and regulations and only sell the liquor in the area they are permitted to sell. The proposal does not change business operations but the consumers.

Kelly asked what precautions will be taken to regulate minors in the area. Riedner responded that the entrances to the site would be restricted access, and of-age participants will likely be asked to wear a wristband of the sort. Vendors are not relieved of their responsibility to identify minors either. Each event may also require the applicant to explain the type of security that will be present. Bringing in additional police officers may be an option; however, the applicant would be responsible for reimbursing those costs.

George Skandalos (Maialina, Moscow) expressed his support of the proposal and the positive impact on businesses. Maialina is planning on hosting an Oktoberfest celebration which would be open to the public. The entertainment district would allow other local vendors and breweries to be involved in the event.

Riedner shared that there will be additional details added and finalized before Council. The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council regular agenda.

REPORTS

Staff Report (if needed)

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

