

SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 – 5:45 p.m.

The Common Council of the City of Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, met in regular session virtually at 5:45 p.m. on May 26, 2020.

Mayor Kaufert in the chair.

Present: Alderpersons Boyette, Bates, Lang, Lendrum, Erickson, Spellman, Steele, Kunz & Stevenson, Director of Finance Easker, Director of Community Development & Assessment Haese, Director of Public Works Kaiser, and City Attorney Godlewski.

Also Present: Deputy Director of Community Development & Assessment Schmidt

Mayor Kaufert called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

Roll was called and all members were present.

Public Forum

Jon Horan—329 Park Drive—Business at 133 W Wisconsin Ave—shared his excited about the prospect of approving this to allow for the opportunity.

Seeing no other appearances, Major Kaufert closed the public forum.

Ordinance 2020-07

Mayor Kaufert introduced the ordinance and gave a brief background on how it came about and why time is of the essence. Dir. Haese discussed the changes made to the current ordinance to allow for temporary extension of premises and allow for staff approval of said permits. He notes the requirement for fencing and clear delineations of areas where outdoor seating will be for beer gardens, the ability for sidewalk cafés in the downtown area to expand their footprint to adjacent properties with written consent, and the waiving of any fees for this permit. Attorney Godlewski highlighted the sunset date of October 1 for this ordinance and temporary permit.

MS Steele/Kunze to approve Ordinance 2020-07 Creating a Noncodified Ordinance to Provide For Covid-19 Temporary Outdoor Seating Areas and Authorize City Staff Review, Approval, and enforcement of Temporary Outdoor Seating Areas and Expansion of Licensed Premises for Taverns and Restaurants

Council discussed the opportunities to take this further and see closure of the street or parking stalls to allow for more outdoor seating, the options for special events in pairing with restaurants, retailers, and Future Neenah, how to hold special events without drawing too many people and thus removing the option for social distancing, and which restaurants and bars have expressed interest in this option.

Mayor Kaufert and Dr. Haese stated they have talked with Future Neenah and the Downtown Business District regarding some further expansion options and are waiting for a unified front from them on what they would want before moving forward.

Council discussed the option to require capacity limits inside and outside for restaurants and bars applying for this permit, the reasons for allowing this extension, one of which being to increase capacity in a safe and regulated way, the fencing requirements on private property, options to extend this beyond October 1st if weather permits, the importance of keeping a clear and manageable pathway through sidewalk café areas, the zero tolerance policy for permit holders, and how noise complaints will be handled.

Council also discussed options to allow retailers a similar expansion of premises.

Aldersperson Bates moved to amend the ordinance as follows. Seconded by Aldersperson Boyette: Amend Sec. 1, III, I, by deleting the stricken language and adding the highlighted language to read as follows:

- H. Three or more noise complaints filed against the owner of an outdoor premises during a license period, and verified by , objective measurement by decibel meter, shall constitute sufficient grounds to revoke the outdoor premises permit granted under this section, subject to the hearing requirement under Section 3.

Motion to amend carried on voice vote, all voting aye.

Public Forum

Mayor Kaufert allowed for any public to speak, should they wish to.

Jon Horan—stated that he does not think there is public confidence in going out in public yet and will not have capacity issues. The more people able to be sat outside the better. Without an increase in business soon many restaurants and bars won't last through the summer.

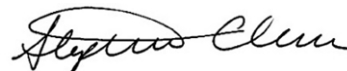
There being no further appearances, Mayor Kaufert closed the public forum.

Council discussed fencing requirements, clarified the difference between this permit and a regular license and clearly communicating that to applicants.

Motion as amended carried on voice vote, all voting aye.

Adjournment

MSC Boyette/Bates to adjourn at 6:45 p.m., all voting aye.



Stephanie Cheslock
Deputy City Clerk