

State of Minnesota  
Counties of Scott & Le Sueur }  
City of New Prague

Special City Council Meeting  
Wednesday, May 27, 2020

*Conducted via GoToMeeting due to the COVID-19 Pandemic which is preventing attendance at the regular meeting location.*

Mayor Nickolay called the online meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: Nickolay, Ryan, Bass, Seiler, and Wolf.

Staff Present Online: Mike Johnson, Ken Ondich, Glen Sticha and Jim Gareis

Others Present Online: City Attorney Scott Riggs

It was moved by Nickolay, seconded by Bass to approve the Agenda. All voted in favor, motion carried. (5-0)

City Administrator Mike Johnson explained that on May 20, 2020 Governor Walz announced that restaurants and bars would be allowed to reopen on June 1, 2020 for on-premises consumption only in outdoor areas. Although restaurants/bars are encouraged to continue to offer pickup and delivery as well, they now will be able to accommodate a minimum on premise outdoor capacity that will be limited to 50 people.

To facilitate the process of assisting restaurants and bars to be able to reopen by June 1, 2020, City Attorney Scott Riggs has provided a resolution Authorizing the Granting of Regulatory Flexibility to local businesses to help speed up the permitting process versus waiting to approve at Council meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month.

City Attorney Riggs explained that he was recommending that the Council delegate authority to the City Administrator to be able to grant approval to local businesses as they reopen to the customers and resume operations under the limitations imposed by the Governor's emergency orders.

Regulatory Flexibility may only be granted as part of a written plan that the City Administrator approves for a particular business entity as laid out in paragraphs 1-7 in the Resolution.

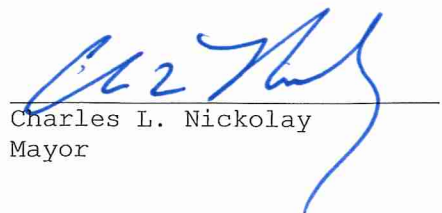
Councilmember Ryan encouraged City Staff to get creative in allowing restaurants and bars to expand outdoor seating areas and to be very business supportive in applying the permitting process. Councilmember Bass was 100% supportive of the process and asked that we do what we can to make the process easy, flexible, creative, and supportive of businesses. Councilmember Seiler's desire was to get businesses opened. Councilmember Wolf supported the resolution, wants staff to be flexible, but that safety still had to be monitored and be reasonable within legal requirements and supported within the confines of the state requirements. Mayor Nickolay concurred with all of the above.

It was moved by Nickolay, seconded by Ryan to approve RESOLUTION #20-05-27-01 AUTHORIZING THE GRANTING OF REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY TO LOCAL BUSINESSES. All voted in favor, motion carried. (5-0)

Following discussion, it was moved by Nickolay, seconded Bass to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:49 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

ATTEST:

  
Michael J. Johnson  
City Administrator

  
Charles L. Nickolay  
Mayor