



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
MAY 12TH, 2021
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR MEETING
VIA ZOOM**

MINUTES

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager
Paul Hanebuth, Asst. City Manager
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager
Sara Hempen, Event Manager
Gina Hill, City Clerk
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda
Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moved to adopt. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

Item #3 **Patio Sales Application for New Restaurant**
A Mexican restaurant named Santo has applied for a patio sales permit in the former Good Karma location.

The applicant was on the call and fielded questions from the BOMC and thanked everyone for supporting his application. Members of the BOMC were supportive. Mayor Elmore said this application would be voted on at the next meeting in two weeks.

Item #4 **Tree Ordinance & Tree Board**
Commissioner Shortell requested these items be discussed in a public meeting.

Commissioner Shortell felt that the community wasn't living up to the intent of the tree ordinance. She was particular concerned about the historic district because lots are smaller and when large trees are cut down, they're not often replaced with another tree that will grow large over many years. She suggested amending the tree ordinance and/or tree list as well as possibly changing the Tree Board and their mission. Ms. Shortell went into more detail about ways to

amend the tree ordinance. Commissioner Laratte felt this is a gray area and he's concerned about this being a burden to home owners but they shouldn't be allowed to clear cut and should have respect for the neighborhood. He wanted to strike a balance. Commissioner Merriam said that the language about intent could be more specific and any changes they want to make could be achieved through the land disturbance permit. She also requested that Ms. Shortell's referenced memo be made public. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher discussed a loophole in the ordinance that could be closed. He was also concerned about verge trees. Mayor Elmore felt the ordinance should be amended. He also did not see a need for the Tree Board any longer. City Manager Bryant said that staff would be comfortable suggesting changes to the ordinance. Mr. Laratte recommended focusing on the ultimate goal and discussion turned to having a certain percentage of canopy coverage. Ms. Merriam felt it was important to look beyond canopy. She also mentioned the city's memorial trees and how that asset should be re-evaluated. Space for trees to grow within the framework of roads in the downtown is also important, she said. Ms. Merriam suggested some of the tree and greenspace related boards be combined and given more structure. Mr. Bryant said staff will move forward with suggestions and facilitating more discussion.

Item #5

Christmas Decorations

First discussed at a previous work session, members of the BOMC will discuss any feedback they've received from residents.

City Manager Bryant said this was first discussed at the last work session. He said a decision needs to be made about what to do with the holly tree that's traditionally used as the city's holiday tree. He listed options. Commissioner Laratte was in favor of using it one more year and then replace it. Commissioner Merriam said the feedback she got from a long-time resident was that it's the ceremony that's important and not the tree. She felt it was acceptable to use the current tree one more year and is fine with using a tree in the corner lot as well. She would like the tree lighting ceremony to take place in the town green at some point. Commissioner Shortell asked what would be involved in making the current holly tree usable for another year. She brought up some issues the group needs to think about as far as long-term location for a Christmas tree. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher didn't want to cut down the holly tree until an alternate plan was in place. He agreed with using the town green in the future. Mayor Elmore was in favor of keeping the ceremony at the current location and cutting down the holly tree and planting a more appropriate one. Ms. Merriam proposed cutting down the current tree and having a competition about redesigning the area. Ms. Shortell listed the decisions that needed to be made and asked Mr. Bryant to find out how much a major pruning of the holly tree would cost. Discussion about options continued.

Item #6

Extension of Moratorium on New Vape Shops

Members of the BOMC supported this extension. It will be voted on at the next BOMC meeting in two weeks.

Item #7

Public Comment

Commissioner Laratte asked to make some comments. He said a resident reached out to him about the car stickers issued by city hall. The resident was disappointed the practice had discontinued. Mr. Laratte suggested an entrepreneur make and sell stickers. He also brought up having a Juneteenth event. City Manager Bryant said there was still a moratorium on in person events. Commissioner Shortell promoted an upcoming event about development ideas for the south side of US 278. Commissioner Merriam recommended the new events coordinator manage an events calendar. Mr. Bryant explained the difference between city-sponsored events and ones that are permitted.

Item #8

Executive Session – Real Estate

- Commissioner Shortell moved to enter executive session. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.
- Commissioner Laratte moved to exit executive session. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

Item #9

Adjournment

Commissioner Shortell motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

APPROVED JUNE 23, 2021


Gina Hill, City Clerk