



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: October 28, 2024

ITEM TITLE: Resolution Approving Moratorium on Enforcement of Certain Sign Regulations

BACKGROUND:

While enforcing sign standards downtown related to a flag sign placed in a planter, the Code Enforcement Official found signage placed within the right of way on the south side of 1st Street East by the businesses there.

DISCUSSION:

When the Code Enforcement Official found the signage placed in the right-of-way, he informed the business owners that they could not have these signs on the sidewalk outside their businesses as this was right-of-way, and advertisement signage is not allowed in the right-of-way. This is in line with the direction he has received from me as the City Manager, who is charged with enforcing all laws and ordinances of the City.

Business owners came to the October 14th City Council Meeting to voice their concerns about this, as they have been allowed to place these signs in the past. In talking with the City Attorney, we came up with this resolution approving a moratorium to allow for these signs to continue to exist while the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council go through the process to update the City's Zoning Ordinance to allow signage like this in the right-of-way downtown.

This moratorium is effective for 120 days or until the ordinance is amended, whichever occurs first.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of Engaging and Catalyzing Community. This item helps achieve that vision by listening to feedback received from downtown business owners and working to address their concerns and support their businesses.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

Minimal costs are associated with this item, such as Staff time and publication costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a resolution approving a moratorium on the enforcement of certain signed regulations.