

## **MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL**

## Request to Include Topic on the City Council Agenda

From:	Emily Kane, City Attorney's Office	Meeting Date:	August 11, 2020
Presenter:	Bill Parsons	Estimated Time: 5 minutes	
Topic:	Ordinance no. 20-NNNN: Amending Meridian City Code section 8-1-4, regarding requirements for City of Meridian Use Zone Encroachment Permits, adopting a savings clause; and providing an effective date.		

## **Recommended Council Action:**

It is the recommendation of the Planning Division of the Community Development Department that City Council waive the second and third readings, and pass this ordinance to be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

## **Background:**

Through a license agreement with the Ada County Highway District, the City of Meridian administers Use Zone Encroachment Permits for sidewalks in downtown Meridian. Under a UZEP, business owners may put temporary encroachments (dining tables, chairs, umbrellas, planters, signs, merchandise displays, etc.) in the use zone, the part of the sidewalk closest to the buildings. Adjacent business owners are eligible to obtain a UZEP for the sidewalk directly adjacent to their business. The provisions outlining the submittals required as part of a UZEP application require the applicant to submit an affidavit of legal interest from the owner of the adjacent property for which the UZEP is sought. This practice was meant to ensure that the owner is aware of the use of the sidewalk adjacent to the owned property, but it has also had the unintended effect of making the application process slower and more cumbersome, an impact which outweighs the benefit of the practice. This impact has been exacerbated by the challenges facing downtown business owners and would not have a measurable detrimental impact on the public. For this reason, we recommend that City Council pass this ordinance.