



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: May 27, 2020

Subject: Resolution Granting Regulation Flexibility to Local Businesses

Governor Walz has enacted Emergency Executive Order 20-56 which has begun the process of reopening the Minnesota economy. One part of this Executive Order is the reopening of certain non-critical business, including bars, restaurants and places of public accommodation.

Bars and restaurants must remain closed until May 31, 2020. Beginning on June 1, 2020, bars and restaurants will be able to open outdoor space for customers. Tables on outdoor patios must allow at least 6 feet of space between customers and tables can only serve four people (or six if the people are all part of one family unit). Reservations are required and workers will be required to wear masks. Customers are encouraged to wear masks. No more than 50 people can be on a business premise at any time.

The Governor has encouraged local governments to be creative in working with bars and restaurants to use open areas. In light of that encouragement, staff is asking the City Council to approve Resolution 20-21, which authorizes the granting of regulatory flexibility to local businesses. The resolution would give the Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer authority to grant regulatory flexibility to businesses, including allowing the expansion of the licensed premises for on-sale liquor license, allowing expansion of business operations without requiring amendments to their zoning permits, allowing businesses to use adjacent public property for customer seating, and other flexibility as determined appropriate.

The flexibility is temporary, as is the authority granted under this resolution. The resolution calls for this flexibility to end on October 31, unless that date is amended by the City Council. The Administrator will provide reports to the City Council on any flexibility granted under this program.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.

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