

VILLAGE OF
FRANKFORT
EST. 1855

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jim Holland called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. by remote video conference.

ROLL CALL

Village Administrator Rob Piscia called the roll. In attendance were Mayor Jim Holland, Trustees Adam Borrelli, John Clavio, Margaret Farina, Keith Ogle, Jessica Petrow, and Gene Savaria. Staff in attendance included Police Chief John Burica, Village Administrator Rob Piscia, and Asst. Administrator Jeff Cook. Village Clerk Brian Feehery was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Ogle made a motion (#1), seconded by Trustee Petrow, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 28, 2020, as presented. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion carried.

Trustee Adam Borrelli arrived at 7:07 P.M., following the approval of minutes.

EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY EXPANDED OUTDOOR SEATING AREAS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY; AND CLOSURE OF KANSAS STREET FROM ASH STREET TO OAK STREET TO EXTEND TEMPORARY OUTDOOR SEATING AREAS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

Mayor Holland announced the purpose of the Committee of the Whole meeting was to consider the extension of the temporary expanded outdoor seating areas on private and public property beyond Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois plan.

Administrator Piscia advised that staff distributed a survey via email and hand-delivery seeking input from the downtown business district relating to extending the temporary expanded outdoor seating areas in the community and the closure of Kansas Street beyond Phase 3. He reported the Village received 27 responses; 23 were positive; 3 neutral, and 1 response felt the closing of Kansas Street for expanded outdoor dining had a negative impact on their business.

The Village Board shared their opinions of extending temporary outdoor seating areas and the closure of Kansas Street. Members were in favor of the extension of temporary expanded outdoor seating areas for local restaurants and bars in our community and the temporary closure of Kansas Street for outdoor dining through Monday, October 5. Trustee Farina voiced her preference to take

the matter through the committee process to consider the matter in more detail and allow the public to partake in an open forum. Members expressed their desire to follow such a process in the event the Board ever considered the permanent closure of Kansas Street.

The Village Board also discussed the provision “no outdoor entertainment” associated with the special request requirements for temporary expanded outdoor dining permits, which includes music and cornhole games.

Members briefly discussed improving the aesthetics related to the closure of Kansas Street. Chief Burica confirmed the barricades and signage currently in place for the temporary closure of Kansas Street are required safety devices.

Following discussion, the Village Board took a straw poll by a show of hands to extend the temporary outdoor seating through Monday, October 5, 2020 or Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan, whichever occurs sooner; continuation of “no outdoor entertainment” as part of the outdoor seating permits, including no music in the H-1 Business District due to the close proximity of mixed uses, and no cornhole or other sporting games in the extended outdoor seating areas. Ayes: Trustees Borrelli, Clavio, Ogle, Petrow, and Savaria. Nays: None. Abstain: Trustee Farina. The motion carried.

Administrator Piscia was entrusted with the authority to address any issues related to the special request requirements for the outdoor seating areas with the goal of seeking voluntary compliance and utilizing a progressive system of punishment when warranted.

OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Farina made a suggestion for staff to research local firms to assist the Village with a communication strategy, objectives, and processes. Mayor Holland pointed out that the Village is currently under contract with a firm for the redesign and development of our new website which will address some of these items.

Trustee Clavio offered a big attaboy to a number of restauranteurs in our community who made renovations during the COVID-19 crisis.

Trustee Clavio questioned the status of the liquor license for Parmesan Wood Stone Pizza. Asst. Administrator Cook reported that under Section 113.21 of the Village’s Liquor Code, upon closing or otherwise ceasing do to business, the liquor license issued to its licensee shall automatically terminate and become null and void and the number of available liquor licenses authorized in the classification of the terminated license shall automatically be reduced by one. Given the current pandemic, the status of Parmesan Wood Stone Pizza was unclear at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were accepted in advance for this meeting through the Village's "Contact Us" form, which was published on the agenda. Administrator Piscia reported in addition to the surveys received, the Village received one public comment email in support of extending the closure of Kansas Street and extending the expanded outdoor seating areas.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Trustee Ogle made a motion (#2), seconded by Trustee Clavio, to adjourn the Committee of the Whole video conference meeting of Wednesday, June 17, 2020. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.