



City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS

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Legislative File No: 2020-0209, 2020-0212 & 2020-0213

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Scott Cope, Director of Building/Ordinance/Facilities, ext. 2445
Sara Roediger, Planning and Development Director, ext. 2573

DATE: May 28, 2020

SUBJECT: Temporary Resolutions for outdoor dining/seating standards, outdoor use regulations, and temporary sign standards

REQUEST:

This request is for City Council to consider the approval of the temporary resolutions for outdoor dining/seating standards, outdoor use regulations, and temporary sign standards that will allow City administration more flexibility in helping businesses recover from the extended COVID-19 shutdown.

BACKGROUND:

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only brought crisis to our community's health and safety, it has delivered economic disruptions to our business community as well. COVID-19 has had no prejudicial agenda. It has closed down manufacturers, retailers and medical offices. It has drained the resources of both small and large businesses. Its unprecedented manner has erased any business owner's ability to plan accordingly and left them scrambling to quickly develop a new business strategy that allows them to continue to acquire materials, employ staff, service customers, meet government requirements and make a profit.

Businesses are a major lifeline to our community, providing jobs, delivering products and services and paying revenue to the City. As we begin to see a phased reopening of our economy these next few months, these businesses will be required to be innovative in their means of operations. And businesses need us to be their partner in a fast and low cost manner. Within our own city operations, we have adopted the philosophy of Trust, Flexibility and Vigilance. We must also apply these principles to the way we regulate our businesses during this period of adjustment, and as such we have developed a new COVID Special Events Permit to help businesses get back up and running as soon as possible. This new permit process will allow for expanded outdoor operations through the end of 2020 without additional permit fees and can become viable if City Council passes the attached three resolutions.

This expedited review process removes the requirement for reviews of temporary signage and allows for the processing of temporary outdoor dining and use requests within 48 hours. This will be accomplished by scheduling regular joint review meetings with all departments involved in the review process. The review and permit process will be coordinated by the Building Department's Ordinance staff working closely with DPS Engineering, the Fire Department, and Planning and Economic Development Department. This new permit process will enable the City to ensure that our businesses are providing a safe environment for customers and employees alike, as we will continue to make safety a priority. Because every business and every site has different dynamics, these temporary changes allow us to work with businesses to develop plans that meet both parties needs on a case by case basis. The proposed temporary resolutions will allow City staff more flexibility in our effort to help our businesses regain their footing as they reopen while maintaining our focus on health and safety.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the approval of the temporary resolutions for outdoor dining/seating standards, outdoor use regulations, and temporary sign standards that will allow City administration more flexibility in helping businesses recover from the extended COVID-19 shutdown.

APPROVALS:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Department Director		
Department Director		
Mayor		
Deputy Clerk		

Contract Reviewed by City Attorney Yes N/A