

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

JUNE 23, 2022

A special meeting of the Committee on Infrastructure was held Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at Nashua High School North.

Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Chair, presided.

Chairman O'Brien

The agenda and other information as far as Zoom has been posted at the Library and on the city website. SO those that want to can gain access there. Just for all committee member so you know, it's going to be basically one meeting but it's going to several different parts. We're going to have to come out of order and then get back into order and the like. So therefore that will be for the format that we'll be using at this particular time. Stay in your seats and stay but at 6:15 to the public so you have an understanding, we're starting at 6 o'clock. If we get done prior to 6:15, we'll wait until 6:15 until the public has access to join us again. If we go beyond 6:15, we'll go right into the next part of the meeting. So that's the ground rules.

The roll call was taken with 5 members of the Committee on Infrastructure present:

Members of Infrastructure Committee present: Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
 Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Vice Chair
 Alderman Alex Comeau
 Alderman Tyler Gouveia
 Alderman Ernest A. Jette

Also in Attendance: Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director
 Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

ROLL CALL

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director
Re: Communication Seeking Approval to add outdoor dining in front of 57 Factory Street (& the rear of the building know as 40 Water Street)

There being no objection, Chairman O'Brien accepted the communication and placed it on file.

Chairman O'Brien

Mr. Cummings can you come up and give us an overview of your communication to the Committee of Infrastructure.

Tim Cummings, Director Economic Development

What you have before you is a communication per 0-22-008. This is part of the process for amending the approved extended outdoor dining plan. During that time, I had conveyed to the group that there would be a forthcoming amendment. This is that exact document where I'd be seeking a recommendation from the Infrastructure Committee to allow for extended outdoor dining in front of 57 Factory Street. Then they also have an additional eatery at the rear of their building which is known as 40 Water Street.

If you flip the page, you'll see the outline that we would be looking to put into place with barriers. It's essentially one parking space in the front of the structure and one parking space in the rear of the structure. The building is rather narrow and so therefore at least in the frontage of the building it would encroach upon the frontage of its abutting property. I can tell you that there is permission from that owner. Again, the intention is to just use one parking space for the outdoor dining. The way the barriers may get set up, there may be some encroachment into an additional parking space depending on how the parking spaces all line up. I'll remind you all that Factory Street typically does not have parking on the street in this area when extended outdoor dining does not exist. This was only created during the summer season. So that is essentially the update.

I can represent to you that Director Fauteux and Parking Manager Jill Stansfield has recommended this and once this

body, if it's the pleasure of the group to approve this, we will then have the Mayor officially recommend it and move forward with the implementation. This has been a request by the restaurant for a few weeks now and I'd like to move it along. Thank you very much for having a special meeting so we could have this discussion this evening.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you Mr. Cummings. To expedite this matter, I will now call for a Motion to allow approval to add outdoor dining in front of 57 Factory Street and the rear of the building known as 40 Water Street. After accepting the motion, then we'll have discussion on the motions and at that time, Mr. Cummings will you be available for any questions during the discussion?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Yes.

Alderman Dowd

So moved.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO ADD BARRIERS IN FRONT OF 57 FACTORY STREET AND 40 WATER STREET TO ALLOW FOR OUTDOOR DINING IN AN AREA COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY ONE (1) PARKING SPACE IN EACH LOCATION

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman O'Brien

I'll open it for Committee Members, questions to Mr. Cummings or general on the item? Alderman Gouveia?

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Question through you to Mr. Cummings. So looking at the Factory Street side, so would this just put barriers around that one spot meaning there will still be parking on both before and after?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Correct. Yes.

Alderman Gouveia

Perfect. Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Further questions? Alderman Comeau?

Alderman Comeau

Thank you Mr. Chair. Just a procedural question to make sure that we are covered and our T's are crossed and our I's are dotted. Do we need legislation to amend 0-22-008 or is this our body's recommendation sufficient?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Correct. Per 0-22-008 once we have the recommendation of the Infrastructure Committee, an updated plan would be produced so long as assuming the Mayor is in agreement with this. Then that plan would be updated and would be the plan that would be published.

Chairman O'Brien

Further Questions? Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

Thank you Mr. Chairman. My only question is that sidewalk in front of the restaurant is very narrow. I'm thinking that in order to allow pedestrian access and that's ADA compliant, the sidewalk will have to remain open. So this is just going to allow them to put tables and chairs in the street in the parking area of the street?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Correct.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you. That is duly noted Alderman Jette. We cannot violate ADA rules. Further questions by members of the Committee? Seeing no further questions, I'll call for the vote.

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman O'Brien

At this particular time, I'll seek a Motion to Adjourn. Prior to that though to the good people that are watching this via Zoom, we're going to take a 5 minute break just to let everybody catch up because we are supposed to reconvene at 6:15, so please stand by. Alderman Comeau?

Alderman Comeau

Before we make that Motion since we're on the topic of barriers, may I ask through you a question to Director Cummings?

Chairman O'Brien

Absolutely, please.

Alderman Comeau

Unrelated to the topic we're just discussing but I drove down Main Street to get here and I remembered during the Task Force meetings there was discussion about the access through the barriers for emergency personnel and there were going to be gaps. Did that not happen because there are not gaps between the barriers?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Great question. I can tell you that we are implementing the gaps. In fact, one update that I confirmed today has occurred which is because to your point originally when the barriers were dropped and put into place, there was not always emergency access as represented. We've been in conversations with the Fire Chief and I can tell you I've spoken to him at least on two occasions about this to ensure that he knew that was coming. The one in particular that I know is of concern to him and we have addressed was what I refer to as over by the Surf block. There was a long run of barriers in front Surf and that was the particular area that the Chief wanted to make sure there was access. So that has been put into place. That was done at the end of last week and I confirmed and checked it out today.

Alderman Comeau

Okay, thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Further questions? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Just procedurally. Did we ask for public comment or is there?

Chairman O'Brien

I don't have it on the agenda, but do you want public comment? I do not see anybody in the public would like to come forward. We do not have Zoom access.

Alderman Jette

Okay, so that answers that question.

Chairman O'Brien

So it's kind of mute, but if you want I'll make it official. Anybody want to speak in the public? Seeing none.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 6:10 p.m.

Alderman Alex Comeau,
Committee Clerk