

Resolution extending the Outdoor Café Program.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in response to the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on restaurants in our community, the City of La Crosse is committed to assisting businesses; and

WHEREAS, temporarily allowing restaurants and to expand their outdoor seating will aid in the recovery of the local economy while adhering to Public Health Orders from the La Crosse County Health Department; and

WHEREAS, some restaurants have previously approved sidewalk cafes or outdoor eating areas in which they will be able to resume serving customers while adhering to Public Health Orders from the La Crosse County Health Department; and

WHEREAS, these restaurants may wish to expand their existing sidewalk cafes or outdoor eating areas in order to serve more customers outside while adhering to Public Health Orders from the La Crosse County Health Department; and

WHEREAS, other restaurants and taverns without existing sidewalk cafes or outdoor eating areas may wish to establish or expand such spaces in private parking lots accessory to the establishment, on the sidewalk, or in the public street, or on an adjacent property; and

WHEREAS, certain city ordinances related to sidewalk café licenses and outdoor eating areas, including street vending, zoning, alcohol licensing and street occupancy either prohibit these activities or subject them to lengthy approval processes; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council approved the Outdoor Café Program in July 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Outdoor Café Program sunsets on November 13, 2020 and there is a desire and request from the business community to allow the program to continue through the winter months; and

WHEREAS, the Outdoor Café Program Guidelines and Application have been revised accordingly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that it hereby extends the Outdoor Café Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of La Crosse adopts the amended Outdoor Café Program Guidelines and application materials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Outdoor Café Program sunsets on March 12, 2021. Any extension of this date or renewal of the program will have to be brought back before the Common Council for action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that establishments approved under the Outdoor Café Program with an expiration date of November 13, 2020 are hereby extended to March 20, 2021 only if they intend to continue operating in the expanded area under the same plan as provided in the original application and subject to compliance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning & Development Department, City Clerk, Engineering & Public Works Department and the Fire Department, Division of Community Risk Management are hereby authorized to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate this resolution.