



Department Source: Community Development - BSD

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 4, 2019

Re: Amendments to the Sidewalk Café Ordinance

Executive Summary

Following the approval of an administrative delay on the enforcement of the permit requirement in the current sidewalk café ordinance, staff has prepared an amended ordinance for Council consideration. As amended, the ordinance removes the requirements of a permit and an application fee for portable sidewalk cafes and retains the requirements for the placement of furniture and temporary barriers, including the accessibility requirement.

Discussion

On February 4, 2019 the City Council approved amendments to Chapter 4 (Alcohol) and Chapter 24 (Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Places) pertaining to permit requirements for sidewalk cafes in the downtown. The ordinance amendments were initiated at the request of the Downtown Columbia Community Improvement District. After staff began administration of the amended ordinance, collecting applications and fees for several sidewalk cafes, the CID leadership requested an administrative delay on the permit requirement to reassess the ordinance requirements. The City Council approved the delay on August 19, 2019 which is effective until January 1, 2020.

Community Development staff have had an opportunity to visit with CID leadership and hear from concerned business owners. The CID canvassed their businesses following approval of the administrative delay. The concern expressed by several business owners is that the existing ordinance over-reaches by requiring annual permits and (\$100) fees for relatively simple placements of tables and chairs that are portable. There is general agreement that the filing with the City of simple plans showing table-and-chair arrangements and the 60-inch clear accessibility requirements are reasonable requirements.

The draft ordinance amendments remove the permit and application fee requirements from the sidewalk café ordinance. The design standards remain, especially the requirement that 60 inches of clear pathway be maintained on the public sidewalk. Instead of a permit, the ordinance now only requires that a plan be placed on file with the City.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None; the City only began a sidewalk café fee this year and it has not been a factor in projected revenues.

Long-Term Impact: None anticipated



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Downtown, Secondary Impact: Community Character, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Public Safety, Secondary Impact: Economy, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
2/4/19	Approval of ordinance 023770, Amendments to Chapters 4 and 24 of the Municipal Code
8/19/19	Approval of ordinance 23966 Establishing an Administrative Delay in the Requirement to Obtain a Permit to Operate a Sidewalk Cafe

Suggested Council Action

Approval of the amended ordinance.