

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
4:00 PM

This meeting was held via teleconference due to the Shelter in Place Order issued by Monterey County and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Potter called the meeting to order at 4:00

Present: Council Members Reimers, Baron, Theis, Mayor Pro Tem Richards, Mayor Potter

CLOSED SESSION

Item A: Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: (one case)

Mayor Potter reconvened the meeting at 4:30

OPEN SESSION

City Attorney Announcements/ Closed Session Oral Report in accordance with GC § 54957.1(a); The City Attorney stated there is no reportable action regarding Closed Session.

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Council Member Reimers recused herself from this item because a restaurant resides on property her family owns near the location in question.

Item 1: Consideration of providing access to the public right of way.

The City Administrator provided the staff report for this item.

The following members of the public spoke:

Ken Spielfogle
Jenny MacMurdo
Richard Kreitman
David Fink
Randy Burnett
Tracy Henderson
Jan Reimers
Gabriel Georis
Walter Georis
Karen Ferlito
LisAnne Sawhney
Jack Galante
Kurt Grasing
Judy Profeta
Kim Stemler
Adam Jeselneck
Anthony Cardazo
Rich Pepe

Item 1 Continued...

Discussion among the City Council and staff included discussion of Council's desire and the importance of getting something moving as soon as possible which cannot happen without discussion and consensus to provide direction to Staff to work with various agencies to create a plan. Discussion included fairness, showing "the powers that be" that the City can do this and manage it, the need for cleanliness, maintenance, security, restrooms and who will be responsible for the various resources needed such as tables and chairs and disinfecting the area. Additionally, the City Council and staff discussed use of to-go containers only, concerns with the details related to the street closure, timing for the potential program as it relates to the Shelter in Place Order and discussion of taking care of our residents. Comments regarding a smaller scale program spread out through the City, the impacts to the City's budget and staff, and the importance of having the restaurants take ownership of, and responsibility for, the program were made. If businesses do not succeed, the City does not succeed and if nothing is done many are impacted. Further discussion took place regarding setting up and tearing down each day and the potential use of, and the wear and tear on, Devendorf Park.

It was the consensus of the Council to give direction to Staff to discuss program details with agencies in the community including: the closure of Dolores Street and what that looks like, the definition of and the operation of the program, health and safety issues, sanitary issues, table placement, impact to parking and the possibility of restaurants using parking spaces through a potential encroachment permit process, and potential additional dining opportunities and areas in the City that might be acceptable. The City Council requested those working on the project poll the community, the restaurants, wine tasting rooms and other merchants and come back with a proposal for the Council to consider. The City Council is not looking to find loopholes or bend the rules in place by the State or County.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Potter adjourned this meeting along with the 4:30 p.m. Special Meeting at 7:08 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Dave Potter, Mayor

Britt Avrit, MMC
City Clerk