



City of Winooski

Vermont's Opportunity City

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Agenda Item	Discussion of Proposed Changes to Sidewalk Use
Date	January 23, 2023
Submitting Department	Planning & Zoning, City Manager
Recommended Action	Provide feedback to staff regarding proposed changes to Chapter 5 of the City's Municipal Code, and consider scheduling a public hearing for February 21, 2023.
Strategic Vision Area and Strategy	All
Expenditure Required (amount and source)	None
Background Information	<p><i>***As a procedural element, since this item involves potential changes to a municipal code or ordinance, state statute requires the draft be introduced by a member of Council***</i></p> <p>At the regular meeting on January 17, 2023, staff presented information on draft amendments to Chapter 5 of the City's Municipal Code. These changes primarily relate to the use of sidewalk space for businesses. This information has been shared with the business community in advance of the Council discussion, and specifically discussed at the January 18th Downtown Winooski Board Meeting.</p> <p>During the Council's January 17 meeting, there were questions about specific dimensions designed into the downtown parking and aisle spacing and whether they could be different. Staff recommend these spacings not be adjusted. As advised by the City's insurer (Vermont League of Cities and Towns Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund, or VLCT PACIF):</p> <p>"...we would advise that the city utilize some type of consensus, federal, or other standards or guidance to assist their decision making. It is much better to be able to point to some type of standard (such as the parking standard you reference), as this provides documentation that the city was thoughtful and not 'negligent' in allowing the placement of customer tables. It's not a get out of jail free card, but it sure makes defending any suit easier."</p> <p>Please see the following memo from Public Works Director Jon Rauscher regarding guidance from two nationally recognized organizations, that indicate the current spacing is consistent with this guidance.</p> <p>At this meeting, staff will provide updated information to Council based on questions that were provided at the meeting on the 17th and</p>

	discuss any other specific issues or items of interest to Council. At the conclusion of the discussion, Staff will request Council set a public hearing on the proposed changes. A possible date for the hearing is February 21, 2023.
Supporting Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft amendments to Chapter 5 of the Municipal Code• Memo from the Director of Public Works on parking space dimensions
Interested Parties	All residents and persons doing business in the City.
City Manager Approval	