

Minutes of the work session of the Winslow City Council held on September 27, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. in the main hall of the Winslow Visitor's Center, 523 West Second Street, Winslow, Arizona.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Cano, Councilmember Boyd, Councilmember Cake, Councilmember Crisp, Councilmember Jackson, Councilmember MacLean

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilmember Nelson

STAFF:

David Coolidge Interim City Manager, Michelle Stinson City Attorney (via Zoom), Suzy Wetzel City Clerk, Una Wirkebeau Economic Development Director (via Zoom)

Mayor Cano called the meeting to order. The Pledge was given and the Invocation was offered by Mayor Cano. Roll call was taken and Councilmember Nelson was absent. Motion: Moved by Councilmember Boyd, seconded by Councilmember Jackson, to excuse the absent member. Motion passed unanimously with Mayor Cano and Councilmembers Boyd, Cake, Crisp, Jackson and MacLean voting yes.

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING PARKLETS AND PARKING IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA

At the request of Mayor Cano, the Economic Development Director provided information regarding the parklet concept that became popular during the pandemic so that people who wanted to social distance could do so. The parklet idea is taking a parallel parking spot and allowing a business, or other entity, to use that space as an extension of their business or outdoor space. The Economic Development Director discussed ways that parklets could be implemented including a percentage of parking spots being allowed within a certain area and the business paying a fee for the parking space or allowing them to use one space for free but paying for additional spaces.

The Economic Development Director stated that parklets are temporary so they would not be a permanent structure along the street and they can go up or down within a matter of a few hours. The Economic Development Director further stated that one of the benefits of parklets is they make communities feel more rich and vibrant resulting in people spending more money resulting in increased taxes.

The Economic Development Director referred to the temporary parklet that was created in front of the Flat Bed Ford Café and stated that it has increased their business in the short time that it has been in place. The owner has indicated that she would like to make the parklet a permanent structure and would make modifications to make it more accessible if they are allowed to do so. The owner has also indicated that parking near the restaurant has not been inhibited in any way.

Mayor Cano referred to the letters from the Flatbed Ford Café and the Motor Palace Mercantile and stated that it is apparent that they have both benefitted from the temporary parklet. Mayor Cano also commented on the fact that some individuals still prefer to dine outside because they feel safer doing so following the pandemic. Councilmember Boyd stated that he thinks parklets are a great idea for the side streets but has concerns with allowing them on Second and Third Street since they are a main thoroughfare and narrow streets. Mayor Cano made reference to the restaurants that have already extended their premises into the sidewalk area and stated that other businesses in the downtown area should be given the same opportunity if there is enough space.

In response to a comment from Councilmember MacLean regarding the liability involved, the Interim City Manager stated that there may need to be an amendment to the code to protect the city since the street is a thoroughfare and considered city property. Sonia Ybarra, owner of the Flatbed Ford Café, stated that Scottsdale, San Tan Valley, Queen Creek and Flagstaff all have parklets so there must be something in place regarding liability. Ms. Ybarra also commented on the fact that parking has not been an issue.

There was discussion regarding whether parklets should be limited to restaurants wherein Tess Kenna stated that she would like vendors to be allowed to utilize parklets to sell various items, specifically Native American Art, to people walking in the downtown area.

Councilmember MacLean asked if there were sample ordinances that other cities have used to allow parklets and the Economic Development Director that she could work on getting that information for the Council to review. Councilmember Jackson stated that he looks for businesses that provide outdoor seating and he is in favor of allowing parklets. Lawrence Kenna provided information regarding a lottery process that is used in West Chester, Pennsylvania to determine who will be allowed to install parklets during a season.

After Mayor Cano stated that she believes that fairness should be spread throughout the business community, there was further discussion regarding potential drainage issues and the amount of time it would take to remove a parklet in case of an emergency. Councilmember MacLean stated that removal of the structure in a certain amount of time should be included in the code.

Councilmember MacLean also stated that there needs to be a permit process in place and Councilmember Crisp clarified that parklets will be strictly optional/voluntary.

After Mayor Cano responded to a comment from Tess Kenna regarding the parking issue on Second and Third Street, Councilmember Crisp commented on the multiple parklet options that are available. The Interim City Manager stated that Michelle Stinson is attending via Zoom to gather information for Trish to move forward with necessary code amendments. The Interim City Manager further stated that there has been discussion at a staff level and the drainage issue may be compounded in front of Bojo's, Relic and the Sipp Shoppe if parklets are allowed in those areas. The Interim City Manager also commented on ADA accessibility requirements.

Councilmember Crisp thanked Sonia Ybarra for allowing a parklet in front of her café. Ms. Ybarra stated that the parklet is utilized with patrons who have pets and it also brings attention to the new murals next to her café.

Prior to adjourning, Councilmember Crisp stated that it would be helpful to know the measurement of the sidewalks as discussions move forward. The Interim City Manager stated that there has been enough direction given so that the City Attorney can prepare a code amendment for consideration by the Council at a future meeting. Brian Law recommended that safety standards be included in the proposed language.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Councilmember Boyd, seconded by Councilmember Cake, to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. Motion passed unanimously with Mayor Cano and Councilmembers Boyd, Cake, Crisp, Jackson and MacLean voting yes.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the work session of the Winslow City Council held on September 27, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2022.

City Clerk