

RESOLUTION 2020 – 24

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN BAUTISTA ASSISTING BUSINESSES TO REOPEN, AND CHANGING TRAFFIC ON THIRD STREET DURING THE COVID 19 CRISIS

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the City declared a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic and reaffirmed the need to continue this state of emergency every 21-days since that date; and

WHEREAS, on May 3rd, the County Public Health Order to Shelter in Place expired, and since May 4, 2020, the City began following the State of California’s “Sheltering in Place” and related policies, including those that apply to the re-opening of businesses that were closed due to the outbreak of the COVID 19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, On Wednesday May 13, 2020, the State approved a variance for San Benito County allowing more businesses to re-open if they can provide safe spacing among their employees and customers, per the business protocols and guidance published by the State; and

WHEREAS, the City supports all of its businesses in their efforts to assess and implement a re-opening strategy under these guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the businesses located on Third Street are typically small in nature, and have limited space to follow these guidelines in a profitable fashion; and

WHEREAS, it is in the City’s best interest to help these particular businesses by changing the use of the street, and opening some of the right-of-way so they can expand while maintaining safe spacing for employees and the public; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer can re-design traffic flow on Third Street to provide additional space for businesses but that will require eliminating one lane of traffic, and the installation of new signs and road-closures to accommodate the change in a safe manner; and

WHEREAS, the best tool the City can use to assure adherence to the City Engineer’s safety protocols for the public’s vehicular and pedestrian use of the Right Of Way, is the issuance of Encroachment Permits, that can be amended and revoked if necessary; and

WHEREAS, the City and business community have been working together to form a plan to change 3rd Street and work together to re-open the City as provided in the actions described below in this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of San Juan Bautista that above recitals and staff report are true and correct, and the City Council agrees to these findings and facts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City Council directs that the following actions be taken to help businesses reopen during the COVID 19 crisis:

1. Re-design, then re-stripe, provide signs, barricades, planters and other amenities necessary to close one lane of 3rd Street that reduces traffic flow to one center lane, with one-way traffic heading west from Franklin to Muckelemi Street;
2. Keep the north/south cross streets open (Mariposa, Polk, Washington, Franklin, Pearce)
3. Establish design standards for businesses considering opening into the public right-of-way ("ROW") created by closing one lane;
4. Offer no-cost encroachment permits for the frontage of businesses that want to open on the ROW;
5. Establish angle parking where no encroachment permit is requested;
6. Assist businesses as necessary with health permits, ABC licenses, etcetera, to help them open on the ROW; and
7. Help promote the re-opening of San Juan Bautista to the greater community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City Council appropriates \$20,000 from its General Fund Reserve to pay for the changes needed in the City's Right-Of-Way to accommodate business expansion during the COVID 19 crisis.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the San Juan Bautista City Council on the 19th day of May, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Edge, Flores, Freeman, DeVries, Jordan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None


Mary Vazquez Edge, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laura Cent, City Clerk