Public Hearing

March 14, 2022

8-22-O: An Ordinance approving an application for a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, establishing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area in the City of Celina, and to ensure public health and safety within such area.

President King called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 pm

Ms. Beverly Dove brought to attention her concerns over the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, as in public responsibility, the curfew, trash, and area to be covered. She asked if there could be more information and a better explanation provided to the public somehow?

CM Scott noted that we’ve heard from a lot of people the good that this would bring to Celina, especially the Downtown, but now we are hearing the concerns of it could be potentially bringing detriment to Downtown. He doesn’t believe her concerns are big enough to stop this going forward but should definitely be thought about.

Mayor Hazel agreed that she brought up so good points. Brought up the reason we did 12-11pm, 365 days a year, and asked if that’s something we should discuss further? He pointed out that the businesses are the ones who are really wanting this.

CM Clausen stated that with asking the other Cities around us about their issues with this. There hasn’t been any like these concerns.

CM Sovinski noted his disappointment that no one that we are trying to facilitate in this Ordinance is here to speak for it.

CM Fleck clarified that we chose 365 days for consistency, so people wouldn’t be having to wonder what days are it.

CM Scott asked are people going to have to walk on the road since there is no sidewalk from Boardwalk Grill to Bella’s on West Bank Road? Director Hitchcock stated that they would be unable to walk from Boardwalk to Bella’s because there is a part of West Bank Road that is out of City limits. With any restaurant like that they are opening it up to expand their business.

CM Lochtefeld stated that our part will be the consistency of it all but the businesses will have the education part, to explain to the customers.

CP King asked do other Cities have a layout like ours or is most just downtown? Director Hitchcock stated that some have parts annexed out but most are one area. CP King stated his concerns of people walking with open containers in main areas of town with how stretched out our map is and if it gets out of hand it’s our duty to shut it down. Director Hitchcock stated that we can shut it down anytime we want to, we just have to look over yearly.

CM Sovinski stated he will vote “no” until someone can come and defend the store owners position on this. The council should not be the ones to be defending this to the oppositions. CM Lochtefeld stated that they were here to defend every issue that has come up at other meetings.

CM Baltzell asked for clarity that not all businesses that are in the DORA have to participate? Director Hitchcock stated no they do not, we will have the stickers in the windows of those who want to and don’t want to participate.

Ms Dove asked if we could add the amphitheater? It was clarified to her that we didn’t because if an event was to be held in the park and they wanted to have their own liquor license then we would have to shut the whole DORA down.

CP King closed the Public Hearing at 6:32 pm.

Submitted by Erin Heberlie, Clerk of Council