

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Susan Lovering recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Susan Lovering; Alderman Thomas Lopez led in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Wilshire

As President of the Board of Aldermen, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

To access Zoom, please refer to the agenda or the City's website for the meeting link.

To join by phone dial: 1-929-205-6099 - Meeting ID: 878 2843 0451 - Passcode: 490368

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at www.nashuanh.gov and publicly noticed at City Hall, Nashua Public Library and the Nashua Telegraph.

If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

City Clerk Lovering called the roll and asked them to state the reason he or she could not attend, confirmed that they could hear the proceedings, and stated who was present with him or her.

The roll call was taken with 11 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Alderman Patricia Klee, Alderwoman Shoshanna Kelly, Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Alderman June M. Caron, Alderman Benjamin Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman David C. Tencza, Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu, Alderman Ernest Jette, Alderman Jan Schmidt, Alderman Brandon Michael Laws, Alderman Skip Cleaver, Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire. Alderman Tencza arrived at 7:23 p.m.

Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Caron, and Alderman Cleaver were recorded absent.

Mayor James W. Donchess was also in attendance.

ROLL CALL

Alderman O'Brien

I am present, I can hear the proceedings, I am alone and practicing safe distancing.

Alderman Klee

I am here, I am alone, I can hear everybody and I am practicing social distancing.

Alderman Dowd

I am present, I can hear everyone, I am alone and practicing social distancing.

Susan Lovering, City Clerk

Alderman Caron?

President Wilshire

Alderman Caron won't be joining us this evening.

Susan Lovering, City Clerk

Thank you, President Wilshire. Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Good evening. I am here. I can hear everybody. I am by myself at my house this evening. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

I can see and hear everybody. I am here by myself at home. I was unable to attend because there is a global pandemic and Nashua has seen a surge in cases.

Susan Lovering, City Clerk

Alderman Tencza?

President Wilshire

Alderman Tencza may not be joining us or he may.

Susan Lovering, City Clerk

Thank you. Alderwoman Lu.

Alderwoman Lu

I am here alone and I can hear you.

Alderman Jette

I am here, I can hear the proceedings and I am staying safer at home and I am alone.

Alderman Schmidt

I am present, I am alone in the room, and it is still unsafe together.

Alderman Laws

I am here, I can hear you and I am social distancing because of the pandemic.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

I am present, I can hear you, I am practicing social distancing and I am in the room alone.

President Wilshire

I am here, I am alone and I am social distancing.

Susan Lovering, City Clerk

You have 11 in attendance.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Also in attendance is Mayor Donchess, I see Director Marchant, anyone I'm missing? Dan Donovan, that's all I see right now. Ok tonight's Public Hearing on Ordinance 20-034, Extending Temporary Adjustments to Site Plans to allow for greater outdoor seating at restaurants. Is there someone here to give us an overview of this? Director Marchant?

Sarah Marchant, Director of Community Development

Thank you, Alderman Wilshire. I will give just a quick overview. This was enacted as an emergency measure back in June I think to complement some of the changes that the City was doing on public property in downtown. This is very specific only to private property. Since this was enacted, we had over 15 private property restaurants take advantage of this program. They are very much interested in continuing, so we are asking for your approval to continue with this. There may be some that don't have outdoor seating over the winter but would like to be able to reopen as quickly as they can in the spring. Or some are interested in attempting to continue to have outdoor dining during the winter months. So we want to be able to accommodate those businesses that are trying really hard at this moment.

President Wilshire

Thank you very much. As is customary, I will turn this over to not the Chair, Alderman Tencza is not with us this evening, but Alderman Laws as Vice Chair, I will turn over the Public Hearing.

Vice Chairman Laws

I said I was prepared for that but ... I am not sure the procedure here, I thought we were going to do the public hearing. So I just call and see if there are any members of the public who would like to speak.

President Wilshire

Testimony in favor and testimony in opposition.

Vice Chairman Laws

Thank you, sorry.

President Wilshire

You're welcome. It's alright.

Vice Chairman Laws

I would like to hear if there's testimony in favor. If there are any members of the public that would like to speak, I need to have them make it known because I can't see anybody.

PUBLIC HEARING

O-20-034 EXTENDING TEMPORARY ADJUSTMENTS TO SITE PLANS TO ALLOW FOR GREATER OUTDOOR SEATING AT RESTAURANTS

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR - None

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR - None

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

Vice Chairman Laws

Testimony is closed and I'll hand it back to you Madam President.

President Wilshire closed the public hearing on O-20-034 at 7:08 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ADJOURN, BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	11
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Nay:	0
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MOTION CARRIED

The special meeting was declared adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Attest: Susan K. Lovering, City Clerk