



**CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 4, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A regular virtual meeting of Powell City Council was called to order by Mayor Frank Bertone on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 7:33 p.m. City Council members present included Jon C. Bennehoof, Frank Bertone, Tom Counts, Heather Karr, Brian Lorenz, Melissa Riggins and Daniel Swartwout. Also present were Andy White, City Manager; Eugene Hollins, Law Director; Megan Canavan, Communications Director; Chris Huber, City Engineer; Aaron Scott, Assistant City Engineer; Karen J. Mitchell, City Clerk; and interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Mayor Bertone opened the citizen participation session for items not included on the agenda.

Sheila Hiddleson, Delaware General Health District: I was asked tonight to join in case you wanted to talk a little bit more about the DORA and to give you a brief update about what is going on with COVID.

We continue to work with all of our partners talking about various things going on. In Powell, we are working with zoo, and lots of your restaurants and businesses in trying to get them open safely and offering advice. We have done toolkits for almost every single business that you can think of. Most of those are available on our website. There is a lot of information on our website that we try to make available for both individuals and businesses. I hope that you are following us on social media, but you should also be receiving our newsletter every Friday, which will always have the latest updates. Also on Fridays, we do our epidemic intelligence report. If you are a data person, this should be of interest.

We have also been working very closely with the schools and superintendents across the county. Contrary to what you may have heard, the Board of Health did not order Olentangy to go to a hybrid model. We have been offering all of the best practices, reviewing all of their plans, not approving them, and making recommendations. This will be an ongoing process throughout the school year where we will make visits to the schools, work with the staff, make sure that all of the best practices have been implemented, as well as making recommendations. If we have an outbreak of COVID, or anything else, we have the authority to shut down the schools, but that is always the last resort. We have a great plan with all of the school districts, including Olentangy. I have been working closely with Mr. Raiff and we have a good plan in place with their staff. We did not tell the school what kind of model to implement, just that they had to be following best practices. If anyone is interested in what we shared with the schools, all of that data is out on our website.

Councilman Lorenz: I just wanted to commend you and your staff for all that you are doing in these difficult times. I am grateful for your steadfast handling of this and giving it to us straight. As a parent with four kids in high school and in sports, I get many questions from a sporting aspect. I am up at Liberty four or five times a day dropping somebody off and am very impressed with the staff and what Mr. Meeker and the coaches have done there in creating a very safe environment. You hear a lot in the news about Health Departments coming out and saying they do not think there should be sports. What approach does Delaware General Health District take on that? What kind of message can you give to the parents who are unnerved, especially in light of the Governor sending out orders in a middle of a Saturday night with a huge lack of transparency and let's everyone to their own devices?

Ms. Hiddleson: Those are excellent questions. I will echo that the schools are doing a good job. We worked with most of school districts back in April when we first heard that we were going to be able to do a little bit of noncontact sports and then that continued to open up a little bit more. If we get a complaint, and we do get complaints about lots of things, we just reach out and talk them through what is going on, and let them know what the concern is. They typically share with

us what they are doing to avoid those incidences. If we need to make a visit, we do that. I was asked last Friday whether we have had any clusters of cases related to some of the youth sports, and the answer is no. We have had a couple of cases in the county tied to a youth sport, but not a cluster. That speaks volumes to the dedication of schools and their staff. We will continue to work with them. Communicable disease is not new; we do this every year with the schools.

Councilman Counts: Can you speak to where the risks are? What are you seeing in terms of contact tracing? What kind of events are generating the most cases?

Ms. Hiddleston: That is an excellent question. As we have been watching the sports over the summer, we really have made sure that we are not seeing any cluster of cases. We have been very fortunate not to have had cluster of cases in sports. For Delaware County, the most we have seen – three in the last month – were travel-related where groups of people, usually young people, have gone some place down south, went together, came back and tested positive, and then gave it to all of their family members. We had three fairly significant epi-linked groups going on. All made it through the infectious period. One of the large groups was to Athens, Ohio and another hot spot related to Put-In-Bay.

Councilman Counts: Anything on a broader, statewide basis that you have heard about that isn't necessarily in Delaware County?

Ms. Hiddleston: I am on a call every Monday morning with the Governor's office and that is always what he wants to know. They just passed the 10 p.m. alcohol sales restriction. We are not seeing that as an issue in Delaware County. That is not to say that some of our cases may or may not have gone to a bar, but we are not seeing groups of cases that are linked to that. When I listen to the other Health Commissioners talk, a lot of these cases are linked to travel. The other group is if we have any congregant living outbreaks. We have had a few in Delaware County, and generally, those are related to long-term care facilities, but not necessarily.

Councilwoman Karr: Please send my regards to everyone at the Health Department. You are all doing a wonderful job and I am very proud of you. I know you have fielded some questions about the DORA. [audio issues] What are your feelings on Powell hosting a weekly DORA?

Ms. Hiddleston: We have talked a lot about with that not just with Andy and Megan, but also with Delaware since the beginning of this. Delaware has had a DORA in place already. The thing we need to make the distinction here is when you are doing the DORA, it is not a fair or festival, you are not trying to bring a whole bunch of people downtown. What you are actually doing is putting something in place for the businesses so that they can more safely spread out their customers because they have more space to do so. I think there have been some lessons learned and I shared some of those with Andy. When Delaware had their first one this summer, they really had a problem with people loitering around tables and other people deciding that this was their table for the night. So there were some limits put on that to keep people from loitering. The main thing we have to do is to remember that this is to help your community have a little bit of socialization together, but to do it safely. While the mandated mask order of 6 feet is optional, we recommend that you still do so as much as you can if you are not actively eating or drinking.

Councilman Counts: By using the DORA, are we expanding the footprint for people to be in such that if we did not have the DORA, these businesses under normal circumstances would have been able to have 100 people, let us say, and by the use of the DORA, we are allowed to have 250 people. By using the DORA, are we significantly increasing the footprint of the area where people could be such that there are a lot more people than we would normally have?

Ms. Hiddleston: I will answer that from the Health District's perspective. I was fortunate enough to be on the Governor's Task Force that looked at restaurants and bars and the reopening. We continue to meet weekly to talk through issues, where there are problems, and how we can make sure that everyone has the tools they need. In many states, as bars and restaurants reopened, they had to go to a 25% occupancy or 50% occupancy. Our group put that back on the businesses to be able to say whatever you can have as long as you can have your 6 feet distance, barriers in place, etc.; we are not going to tell you a number. For you as Council by allowing them to have some people outside, that is never going to get them to their full capacity that they would have had pre-COVID, but it does give them more room to let people come and enjoy your downtown area, but have a larger area to be walking around so you do not have people right on top of each other.

Councilman Counts: Is the DORA area such that we can suddenly have many people in, even with the 6-foot distancing in this DORA area versus what we would have had normally?

Mr. White: Hypothetically, that is possible. We are relying on it as a tool, in understanding that today without an event; businesses are free to serve customers. We have thought about the event versus the tool. While I think we have some

work to do long-term on that, but if this actually becomes a feature of the downtown community that is not promoted as a singular weekend. What we have seen in some of the other communities, is that it is more dispersed, that it is used over a less dense population as opposed to a singular event, for example July 4, where we are going to have a blowout. At that point, you are talking about serious concerns and I would have pause for that. Throughout the remainder of this season, our thought would be that the City would pull back with regard to its services. We would relegate a lot of responsibility and provide signage and placement of hand sanitizers stations, and try to help from that regard. Our cost would be significantly mitigated under this type of approach. Assuming that Sheila will figure out the vaccination and we can go post-COVID. We will have a better tool moving forward because we have evolved so much from when this legislation was created last year. Since the first DORA, we have had a couple of starts and stops. I think what we are looking at is a safe promotion of social distancing and behaviors that are associated with it over a longer period of time that is consistent and not going to be a one-time event that draws very large crowds.

The biggest takeaway from internal conversations is that there is a safe way to do this. But overall the City needs to take a clearer stance going forward on what it is going to do throughout the remainder of this pandemic. In the steps we have taken in retrospective, we have created an expectation and then got walloped with a set of circumstances that were out of our control. We want to avoid that going forward.

Ms. Hiddleston: You know where to find me if you have any additional questions. Please do not hesitate to call me.

Hearing nothing further, Mayor Bertone closed the public comment session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 21, 2020

MOTION: Councilman Lorenz moved to adopt the minutes of July 21, 2020. Councilman Swartwout seconded the motion. Councilwoman Riggins abstained. By unanimous consent of the remaining members, the minutes were adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development Committee: *Next Meeting: August 4, 2020, 6:30 p.m. We met tonight. We had a request for an encroachment in the right-of-way at Armita Plaza. There is some pavement that may overlap into our right-of-way. We have asked Staff to take another look at that, work with Dr. Ali, and possibly bring us back something at the next meeting and ultimately an ordinance to accept an encroachment at Council.*

We had a discussion with Rick Karr, Fiscal Officer at Liberty Township regarding a proposed intergovernmental fuel sharing agreement to share the costs associated with that. The Trustees approved it last month. It still needs some work, so Staff, Andy and the Township Administrator will get back on that. I expect it will roll back to our committee or perhaps Finance Committee next month.

Last, we had extensive DORA conversations. Andy summarized the approach. Andy, Chief, Megan and myself have met with several of the downtown business owners several times. The consensus is any extracurricular that we had at the last one would be outside of the City scope. This would be more driven by the businesses as a tool and we need to keep using it as a tool for them to utilize the tool the way they see fit. The City is clear on the approach. The approach we would like to take is that we look at this on a weekly basis, from Wednesday to Sunday. One of the big highlights of that is that due to the normalcy of it, it will help to spread out the community. We would begin it next weekend.

Finance Committee: *Next Meeting: August 11, 2020, 7:00 p.m. The reports will not go out until Monday because Karen Sybert is out on vacation and will not be back until then.*

Operations Committee: *Next Meeting: August 18, 2020, 6:30 p.m. One of the things that would be important before then is [to have a conversation]. Essentially the DORA has been on the agendas for both Development and Operations for close to a year. I think it is important moving forward that we get some clarity as to whether the DORA is under the purview of Operations or Development, or what portions are under each because we have had some issues in the past as far as different committees offering different approaches on items. I think it is important that we get things streamlined. Brian, can we get together to discuss this?*

Councilman Lorenz: Yes, we can do so offline. We may wish to have Andy join us as well. Andy and I have spoken about that previously as well, so I will set something up for the three of us.

Planning & Zoning Commission: *Next Meeting: August 12, 2020, 7:00 p.m.*

Powell CIC: *Next Meeting: August 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m.*

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT/CITY CALENDAR

Mr. White: The fuel sur-charge is something we will move forward on. I think that is a good collaborative opportunity for us to open up the door with the township. I know that in initiative we have all talked about through the recruitment process and with our goal setting. To that end, I have had meetings with the Township Administrator, and we intend to

make that as a regular meeting. We hope it will help us to prepare and promote some of the overlapping policies.

We did have a very good work session last week. Staff has started to look at everything. I think the next step is to get back together and compress some of the things and elongate others, but also lay out some prioritization. I have many ideas formulating in my mind that I would like to have additional conversation about. There is a lot of good material there to work with. I think it will be incumbent for our Staff to work with Council to enumerate those things as part of the budget development for 2021 and beyond and set some milestones long-term.

There is a lot of work going on in various components of the City. If you have not noticed, you soon will. Sawmill Parkway is underway and they are doing a lot of work with the catch basins on the east side of the road base. That is a lot of slow methodical work. The contractor has been working very closely with the HOA. You will notice throughout the stretch of construction that there is an irrigation system that we are trying to work around to allow it to continue to be operating while the guys are doing their work. The intersection with Liberty & Scioto Streets, what looks like a war zone when I was out there with Chris yesterday, they are making pretty good headway. The rains over the past few days have had an impact, but I think that is going to be a great program moving forward. The street program will be started soon as well.

Brian you inquired about the traffic mast that is further north on Liberty as part of the county project. Chris was able to check on that this afternoon. COVID has delayed the power coating of some of the materials. When do we expect that, Chris?

Chris Huber, City Engineer: Around the end of August, so about 3 days late from the original estimate for the delivery date.

Mr. White: I like to see these things going on in the City. It is a lot of activity against the priorities that Council has established. I do have to sign off on a change order. The engineers were reluctant to have me share this with you, but we actually had a unit deduct, so we will be saving some money on the project, with one of the unit costs of approximately \$98,000. We will continue to monitor that. It could easily be offset at some other portion of the project, but I do want to keep you abreast in the fact that this financial activity is going on out there.

Frank and I did talk about the surreal environment we are in right now. I am really looking forward to getting back in touch in chambers. We can still operate under the existing temporary order that was adopted last spring. We just have to look at some options to provide a better access point for the public. I don't anticipate being available to entertain you from the podium at your next meeting, but if Council's prerogative is to meet in chambers for our next meeting, I think we can do that. I think there are a few things we can try in the short run to make it work while we are working on the long-term solution.

Mayor Bertone: I do not want to speak for my peers or committee chairs, but if you want to meet next week in Council chambers please reach out to Andy to organize with him to update agendas appropriately.

Mr. White: The only other thing I wanted to return to is the DORA conversation and the impacts we have talked about. I feel comfortable moving forward with the program outlines we have had to potentially allow this with a modified approach. The City is not directly involved with the policing or trash removing or anything other than placing signage and additional hand sanitation stations. The policy I think needs to be address is whether Council, as a whole, are on board with that and, if so, it then becomes a question of the actual duration of the event. I do not think we can go past 10:00 p.m. with the orders in place, but the days of the week and the consistency of a running DORA through the end of September. Because through our conversations with the businesses, that would be something that they would appreciate. To Melissa's point, that we brought up in committee, the cost. The application fee and that being established with the understanding that there would be law enforcement, personnel associated depending on the size of the business, etc., needs to be rethought and retooled going into next year. Just the administration's thought, I do not see that there is enough of a window between now and the end of the summer that we can do much more than what we have laid out. In the interest of Staff, Council and business participants, I would appreciate Council's measure on that policy.

Councilman Lorenz: I think we have an obligation to utilize any tool in our power, at the discretion of the City Manager, and move forward with this approach for the rest of the summer. I feel very strongly that we have an obligation to support downtown businesses, any business, and to do it in a safe manner. I think this new approach, after countless meetings and discussions, will be very successful, spread people out, will dissipate crowds by having it on a weekly basis from a Wednesday to Sunday. I am all for it and I hope all you would be supportive of that as well. Really, it is no different than how other communities that are doing it. One of the great things that we have is all the space.

Councilman Counts: The DORA as a concept I get it and understand it. The DORA in the middle of a pandemic is somewhat problematic for me. The expansion of Wednesday through Saturday is way too long. The problem is not the establishments. The problem is not the City trying to do things. It is the people who are at the event who will simply not abide by the rules. That is just a risk that is inherent in the situation. There are lots of things that have gone on in my life, through this event, that I thought was not very risky only to find out it was, in fact, risky. Singing is one of those things. I just had to learn to deal with that and learn to deal with it in a different way. I am very hesitant to expand the DORA for such a long time. I like the idea of it being a more regular event than a special event, but doing it that long regularly is very difficult for me.

Councilwoman Karr: I am supportive of the DORA, especially looking at it as less of an event. I am concerned about the number of days. Even though we are looking at putting this more on the businesses, it would still require some City resources. Wednesday through Sunday seems like it would be a lot. I do not know what the numbers would look like for us. We have not really talked about the numbers themselves. I guess I would like to put a caveat out there that we may have to reexamine this should our COVID numbers go up. We do not know what fall is going to look like after school starts. That is something I would like us to continue to consider.

Councilman Bennehoof: I too support the concept of the DORA, especially now that it is a vendor driven event, rather than a City event. However, I share Tom's concern about it being in the middle of a pandemic. I also have a concern just in general about a four or five day DORA every week. I think we probably need to look at retooling the Ordinance that was originally put together to be sure; we have a solid footing and bring it back through.

Councilwoman Riggins: I will repeat what I said earlier in committee. If we are totally changing the model from what we had originally intended and it is to be business-driven versus City-driven with the expectation that the businesses pick up the majority of the expenses – but unless there is an Applicant and someone who is taking the responsibility for those expenses, it needs to be looked at to determine where the money is coming from so that the City does not have to outlay that additional money. I am in favor of the DORA; it is just that I think there are some issues that still need to be discussed since we are basically changing the direction on it, sort of on the fly. It is different from what we originally discussed, decided and put into the legislation.

Councilman Swartwout: I did not hear most of the discussion at Development Committee so I think I would need to discuss that with Brian and Andy offline as we figure out Operations versus Development moving forward.

I will say this though about the DORA. The DORA took a long time to implement. One of the things that was talked about constantly as we were implementing the DORA was the flexibility of it. I do not think there was one particular vision for what the DORA could or should be and that was part of the reason we made the legislation and the Ordinance so flexible as we went and looked at the DORA, what worked, what did not work. We could move in that direction under the flexibility of the Ordinance we currently have, whether it be a vendor driven model, whether it be a City-driven model, whether it be a special event model, whether it be a weekly model. We were under the ability to do all of that under our current DORA legislation and I think that was pretty much a feature, not a bug, of the Ordinance as it was passed. So whatever we decide to do, I am comfortable with it under very extensive, long deliberations that went forward to make the DORA a reality. As we looked at that first DORA event, one of the things we talked about was this being potentially a test run for a more regular, perhaps a weekly, perhaps a monthly, but a regular event. I feel very comfortable wherever we take this DORA as we decided on in Council that (1) we have the ability to do it under our current Ordinance, and (2) that this was something we had discussed many, many times throughout the entire deliberative process of passing the DORA. I think it is incumbent, as soon as possible, Brian and Andy, we get together and figure out what you have put together so I can get up-to-speed with what the current approach is.

Mayor Bertone: I will echo many of your comments. As we worked on that in committee over the last year and a half, it was a long, deliberative process. It was designed to be flexible, as noted. I am a massive proponent of the DORA. I do have one slight concern during the midst of a pandemic, and that is the duration of it – Wednesday through Sunday. I think we might be going a bit extreme with that. I think Sheila's comments helped this evening. I was able to listen in to some of Development Committee as well and the feedback there. To hear the businesses' advocacy for this as well as your citizen representatives and their advocacy as well, is what puts the value in this process. It does not mean I have to attend on a Wednesday night, but I know that it is there. It is one of those situations that I think the same way as you, Dan. When you, Brian and Andy reconnect on this matter, please understand that a vast number of folks here tonight, five I believe, have mentioned that they had an issue with the duration. Keep that in mind as you guys go through with your conversations.

Councilman Lorenz: We have been talking about this thing for months now. To ask a group or subgroup to come back – we are either going to do this thing or not do it. We need to hammer it out right now. We have businesses that have

purchased equipment while waiting for us to make a decision and we have constantly dragged this down the road. Quite frankly, I do not even know why we are having this discussion. The legislation was passed. The administration should be taking care of this. If you do not want to have it five days, great, that is fine. But it needs to go into place and it needs to happen now. If we are going to have another conversation, that is another two weeks, it is the end of summer, forget it, and we are letting all these businesses down. Tell us what you want, tell Andy what you want, and let's get it going.

Councilman Swartwout: Brian, not all of us were at Development Committee. Not all of us are on Development Committee, so when we say we have an approach; I do not know the approach.

Councilman Lorenz: I understand that. But we have been talking about this all summer long. All of us have had integral conversations. We have brought this up in Council numerous times. With all due respect Dan, while I understand where you are coming from not being a participant of that committee, like we have both said, the legislation has passed. It is flexible. It is time for him to have the authority to do what he thinks is right.

Mayor Bertone: What I am hearing this evening Brian is no one is throwing this out. It sounds like there are events planned for next weekend. No one is saying no to that, and I think you understand that Andy. I think the only question was is it Wednesday or is it Thursday. Did I hear that correctly?

Mr. White: From Staff's standpoint, I agree that the legislation exists to allow this to be utilized as a tool. I think the corners of the policy that we were looking at was not to say it should be this date to that date, it was, we have had conversations about Friday, Saturday, Sunday. We have had conversations about Thursday. Being new to the process, I want to make sure that I understand clearly, where the policy board is at so that I can articulate to the businesses that are out there that on this day, between these hours, you are able to have the DORA because the City is the applicant. We decided that when we created the offshoot from the Powell Fest. All the conversation we are having now is relevant to a longer-term policy about what we do in 2021. The question I have right now from the administrative point of view is what do we do right now? We want to move forward with a program that would allow this tool to be implemented though the end of September. If Wednesday through Sunday is too long, I do not really care to weigh in on that, it is just what are the days Council feels comfortable with so that we can move forward with that type of a conversation. We think we created an expectation previously and I do not want to do that again because we had set up a DORA, it was not perfect, but then we responded with another event and because of circumstances out of our control, I think some businesses spent some funds, and then we were not able to do it. I want to stay away from repeating that moving forward.

Councilman Swartwout: This is what I am talking about. The approach that had been discussed up to this point is that it is more of a business-driven concept, and now Andy you just said that the City is the Applicant. These are the details that you ask me to make a policy decision on; I have heard two conflicting things here.

Mr. White: From my observations, essentially the DORA was difficult to get off the ground prior to my getting here. There was not a lot of participation. It was a new concept. Subsequent to that discussion, we had the crisis of the economy and the cancelling of all these events. So the City became the Applicant out of the Development Department and I think that is the crux of the issue that I am thinking of now. Can we move forward whereby the City is the Applicant for the remainder of the summer of 2020? There will not be a lot of expenditures. In talking with Chief Hrytzik, a lot of the other communities that do this, do not police it, other than the routine patrols throughout the community. I think that is a better way to go. It otherwise creates an appearance of our personnel enforcing social distancing. We do not have the criteria to do that and we should not. But if we were the Applicant in the short-term crunch while we figure out what is going to happen by the end of the summer, I think that was the idea. That we could continue to evolve. It is a flexible document. I do believe that there is the flexibility to allow us to go forward.

I was just looking for some direction in terms of the duration because our original conversations involved doing it once or twice a month. Through our conversations with the businesses and other communities that have done the event where it is successful, it seems to become a normal feature of downtown instead of an attraction in a 72-hour window. That is what I would like to try to go to for the rest of this year. Long-term, I think we need to turn the thing upside down in 2021 and figure out now how we want to employ this. Is it something that is going to become just a condition of our downtown experience, knock that out, and get into the fee structure? Right now, I do not think it is in our ability or position to put together a downtown maintenance crew, for example. I do not want to try to reinvent the wheel or force anyone into a decision, but just to have the conversation and provide feedback to you from the conversations that we are having on our committee internally. I think there is an opportunity to utilize the DORA for the remainder of 2020 in some fashion, make it routine, but in any case, be able to speak from Council's point of view with one policy perspective and articulate that. Is there room to have this conversation for another couple of weeks or do we run out of time?

Councilman Swartwout: I appreciate that feedback. However, we go on this, I am in agreement with Brian that we

hammer it out now. Yes, no or whatever it is, we hammer it out now.

When we had an Operations meeting in February, somebody came with the idea of an event and using the Village Green. One of the things we suggested then was to reach out to the businesses because it sounds like an excellent opportunity to utilize our DORA because our DORA had been on the books for a while and we had not had an application yet. That person said that the businesses were not interested in the DORA. We were specifically going out of the Operations Committee to reach out to the businesses to show what a great tool this DORA can be. So it is something that has been in Operations for some time. It has been in Development for some time. I think it is important that we streamline this because I think it will be clearer for Staff, Council and the businesses once we get this in the right pocket as to where it should be. But I agree that we should definitely hammer this out tonight.

Councilman Counts: The original event was two days. Then the next thing I was hearing was that it was four days. The first event had some issues and I am not sure why we went from 2 days to 4 days. With the change in the environment, going from shorter to longer did not make any sense to me. My preference would be Friday night and Saturday, no Sunday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Councilman Lorenz: I think that is very helpful and I am appreciative. That gives everybody a little bit more direction. The only comment is the length of the duration is incentive in spreading out the crowds and creating some normalcy in the tool.

Megan Canavan, Communications Director: I would add that I spoke with some of our counterparts in Hilliard and Delaware that have DORAs in place. Delaware's DORA was originally set up to be event-specific. When the capacity restriction issues came out with the restaurants and bars, they took the approach of making it a weekly DORA and having theirs spread out over multiple days because they felt it helped to disperse the amount of people coming for a Friday night/Saturday only event. It helps the retail side as well by bringing more customers to the area.

Mayor Bertone: For the next eight weeks, is this body comfortable going with Thursday, Friday, and Saturday? Melissa, yes; Brian, yes; Heather, yes; Tom? [Councilman Counts: I will go along with the majority.]; Jon? [Councilman Bennehoof: I will go along with the majority as well. I think we should crawl, walk, run.] Andy, you have a majority. Do you understand where we are heading with this at this time?

Councilman Swartwout: I know we have a majority, but I really think if we are going through with this, we should consider Sunday as well. I attended the last DORA event on the Sunday and I found, especially because of the duration of a Sunday, this might help spread out the visits more than a Thursday. If we are going on three days, I would consider the Friday, Saturday, Sunday model instead.

Councilman Bennehoof: I would agree with that.

Mayor Bertone: Any objections?

Councilman Counts: Yes, I object.

Councilwoman Riggins: I do not know that Sunday should be used. I would prefer Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

Councilwoman Karr: What hours are we looking at on Sunday? Are we talking evening or all day?

Ms. Canavan: The suggestion we have, based on stakeholders' feedback, is from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm to align with the hours of the businesses, and having it start earlier for the retail shop side.

Councilwoman Karr: It would make sense. Yes for Sunday.

Councilman Bennehoof: I support the DORA; I am concerned about crawl, walk, run.

Mayor Bertone: So we are going for the next 8 weeks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Andy, does that give you a clear path to execute, come back and report back? If there are any issues, such as an increase in numbers, the City reserves the right to revisit this conversation.

Mr. White: I am comfortable with that and I just want to say I appreciate Council's flexibility to have this conversation. I know it is a difficult subject because it is safety and it is also important to our downtown. But I think this is a good discussion to have.

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Ohio Rev. Code §121.22(G) (1) Personnel Matters – to discuss the hiring and compensation of public employee(s).

MOTION: Councilman Lorenz moved at 8:40 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code §121.22(G)(8) Economic Development. Councilman Counts seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y 7 N 0

Councilman Bennehoof left the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

MOTION: Councilman Counts moved at 9:18 p.m. to adjourn from Executive Session into Open Session. Councilman Swartwout seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y 6 N 0

ADJOURNMENT


MOTION: Councilman Counts moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m. Councilman Lorenz seconded the motion. By unanimous consent of the remaining members, the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES APPROVED: August 18, 2020

 9/1/2020

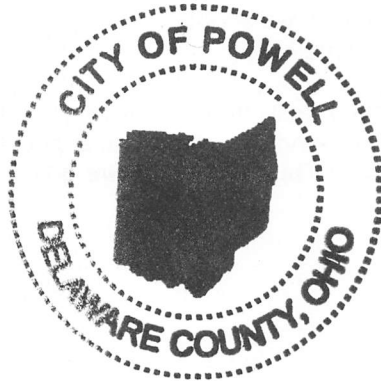
Frank Bertone
Mayor

Date

 9/2/2020

Karen J. Mitchell
City Clerk

Date



City Council

Frank Bertone, Mayor

Jon C. Bennehoof

Tom Counts

Heather Karr

Brian Lorenz

Melissa Riggins

Daniel Swartwout