

# MINUTES

## URBAN RENEWAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 P. M., DECEMBER 5, 2019

### A/V CONFERENCE ROOM

Naomi Bays, Committee Member, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Urban Renewal and Economic Development to order at 5:30p.m., DECEMBER 5, 2019, in the Audio/Visual Room in City Hall.

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Brent Burton, Chair (arrived 5:37)  
Ben Adams  
Naomi Bays  
Caitlin Cook (arrived 5:34)  
Jennifer Pharr  
Bobby Reishman

1. Approval of Previous Minutes – Councilmember Adams moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 11-7-2019. Councilmember Pharr seconded. There was no objection and the minutes were approved.

## 2. Itinerant Vendors (fairs and festivals) - (5:34)

Councilmember Bays introduced Mallory Richards and Maria Belcher from FestivAll. Councilmember Bays stated that in past years, FestivAll artists were not required to register as businesses and report their earnings. They were required to do so this year, and FestivAll was not expecting this last-minute expense. Those licenses were able to be pro-rated. She added that there needs to be a fair and equitable system in place for artists that sell goods during events such as FestivAll.

Chief of Staff, Matt Sutton, added that when the year started the new Administration determined that the process of registering businesses was not standardized. As a result, they directed the Collector's Office that absolutely every business should be registered and filing B&O taxes per City Code for a fair and even system. The current City Collector is now working on setting a threshold that would apply for the types of business to which Councilmember Bays was referring. While this is still a work in progress, the thought process is to credit these businesses for next year so that they do not have to obtain another business license. Mayor Goodwin added that the City is willing to help any business that is found to owe past B&O taxes, and have been by in part, but offering payment plan. They are currently working on a two-page info sheet to clarify the process of setting up and paying B&O taxes. From the audience, Councilmember Bailey suggested having a box on the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter tax form to include the \$20 fee to streamline the process.

Councilmember Bays suggested having a license for the physical year (instead of the fiscal year of July-June) to prevent vendors from potentially having to obtain two licenses to attend various events.

Councilmember Pharr asked if the vendors needed to carry insurance. Sutton answered that it depended on the event (Live on the Levee, for example, requires it). Mallory Richards from FestivAll stated that smaller groups would not be able to afford that.

## 3. Administration Updates –

Councilmember Pharr confirmed that the proposed food vendor bill was being reworked by the City Attorney with the Committee's recommendations. They will most likely be presented to the updated draft early 2020.

The next scheduled meeting will be January 23, 2019 at 5:30, at which time the Committee will again take up Bill No. 7836.

Councilmember Reishman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Bays seconded.

Meeting adjourned.