

City Council Memo

From: Paul M. Briseno, City Manager

Council Meeting: March 23, 2021

Subject: Ordinance 21-013: Renewal Occupancy Restrictions & Mask Mandate

Person(s) Responsible: Paul Briseno, City Manager

Summary:

Ordinance 21-001, which currently regulates bars, restaurants, salons, retail and requires face coverings for indoor businesses and indoor public spaces will expire April 10, 2021. Brookings County has transitioned community spread from moderate to substantial, hospitalization is low, cases is minimized, and only a portion of the triggers is met. Staff recommends Ordinance 21-013 with appropriate City Council changes. Any substantial increases in cases by March 23rd should be considered in determining the appropriate ordinance for implementation.

Background:

On September 8, 2020 City Council approved an Ordinance mandating face coverings where social distancing is not achievable for indoor businesses and public places. The Council renewed the existing regulation that requires bars, restaurants, casinos, grocery, retail, and fitness businesses to operate at half capacity. Employees of certain businesses are required to wear face coverings at all times.

Discussion:

Brookings County is in substantial spread. The seven-day rolling percent positivity, according to the hospital's dashboard, is 6.8%. Brookings County was ranked sixth of cases per one-hundred thousand of the counties with the top ten most populous cities. More importantly, Brookings County has the lowest total deaths of the same comparison. Approximately 1,028 vaccinations were given at the February 25th event, and multiple mass vaccinations will occur in March and April. By early to mid-April, 1E is projected to be complete. Brookings County has achieved case counts similar to fall 2020.

Ordinance 21-013 keeps the existing mask mandate, requires masks for employees of specific businesses. The Ordinance eliminates the occupancy regulation and further transitions many business requirements to recommendations.

The First Reading of this Ordinance occurred on March 16, 2021. At that time Council amended the ordinance to expire April 30th. The Second Reading will be held on March 23, 2021.

Legal Consideration:

None.

Financial Consideration:

None.

Options and Recommendation:

The City Council has the following options:

1. Approve as presented
2. Amend
3. Refer to a Study Session
4. Deny
5. Do nothing

Staff recommends approving the ordinance as amended to expire April 30th.

Consideration should be given to the thresholds, vaccinations, and cases up to March 23rd.

Supporting Documentation:

Memo

Ordinance 21-013 – clean 3/23/2021

Ordinance 21-013 – marked 3/23/2021

Hospital Dashboard

Weekly COVID 19 Report

Threshold Report – to be uploaded Monday, 3/22/2021

Ordinance 21-013 – clean 3/16/2021

Ordinance 21-013 – marked 3/16/2021