



City of Brighton

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER TO CITY COUNCIL

June 17, 2021

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF RETURN TO IN-PERSON MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

Summary of Emergency Order

- The City's Emergency Declaration authorized:
 1. "That a local state of emergency is hereby declared pursuant to MCL 30.410 by the City Council due to the COVID-19 epidemic as declared by MDHHS, until compliance with both the Opens Meeting Act and any Emergency Orders of MDHHS restricting public attendance at public, in-person meetings due to such epidemic can be met.
 2. This Declaration shall remain in effect until the earlier of August 31, 2021 or a City Council determination that the Local State of Emergency no longer exists and terminates this Declaration.
 3. That Chief Rob Bradford be appointed as the Emergency Management Coordinator pursuant to MCL 30.409 to comply with all necessary provisions of the Michigan Emergency Management Act."

Current MDHHS Rules

- "Beginning on June 1, 2021, the overall capacity limit of an indoor establishment - including staff, patrons, and all other persons - will be limited to 25 people or 50% of the limits established by the fire marshal, whichever is greater. If the establishment does not have such a capacity limit, then the total occupancy is limited to 30 people per 1,000 square feet."
- Mask requirements:
 - "4. Indoor face mask requirement.
 - a) Except as specified in Section 5, all persons participating in indoor gatherings are required to wear a face mask.
 - b) A person responsible for an establishment, or an agent of such person, must prohibit gatherings at their establishment unless the person makes a good faith effort to ensure that all persons at their establishment (including employees) comply with section 4(a). For purposes of this section, a "good faith effort" may include any of the following:
 - (1) Posting a sign notifying people that wearing a mask is required unless a person falls into a specified exception;
 - (2) asking patrons not wearing masks whether they fall into a specified exception;
 - (3) requiring face masks of all patrons and employees; or
 - (4) any other policy designed to ensure compliance with section 4(a).
 - 5. Exceptions to face mask requirement. The requirement to wear a face mask at indoor gatherings does not apply to individuals who:
 - (a) Are fully vaccinated persons;
 - (b) Are younger than 2 years old;
 - (c) Cannot medically tolerate a face mask;
 - (d) Are eating or drinking;
 - (f) Are receiving a medical or personal care service for which removal of the face mask is necessary;
 - (g) Are asked to temporarily remove a face mask for identification purposes;

- (h) Are communicating with someone who is deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing and whose to see the mouth is essential to communication;
- (k) Are giving a speech for broadcast or to an audience, provided that the audience is at least 12 feet away from the speaker; or”
- Although fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear a face mask, an establishment may adopt and enforce its own policy requiring all patrons and employees to wear a face mask.
- New rules are expected on or around July 1, 2021

Return to In Person Options

- Community Center
 - The Community Center could accommodate public meetings in the short-term with the purchase of some additional equipment. However, it should be noted that there will be the need to share microphones as eight will be the max. There may also be a need to have the City’s contractor available to set up for each public meeting to insure no issues.
- City Council Chambers
 - City Council Chambers is currently expected to be completed by the end of the current emergency order (August 31, or possible sooner).
- Options When Public Attendance is Expected to Exceed Capacity
 - The Community Center, if available, but not to exceed 50% of the Fire Marshal’s capacity of 175 persons utilizing only chairs and as partitioned in the accompanying layout, 87 persons
 - The Brighton Center for Performing Arts (Limited Availability, \$150 per hour)
- Coordination with Other Groups
 - Additional coordination will be needed depending on City Council interest
 - Monday nights at Community Center by Planning Commission would cause short-term disruption to Boy Scouts

Extension of Emergency Order

- Per the City Attorney, “municipalities may wish to declare a local state of emergency through December 31, 2021, which allows flexibility in holding virtual meetings under the OMA. (Virtual meetings can be held through 12/31 if a local state of emergency is in effect.) If the City decides to resume in-person meetings, it may do so; it is not required to rescind the local state of emergency. Put another way, having a local state of emergency *allows* virtual meetings, but it does not *require* them. As to the City’s August 31 end date, the City could extend that date by resolution (through December 31 at the latest) and continue holding virtual meetings during that time, or it could rescind the local state of emergency if it wishes.”

Groups Impacted by Resolution

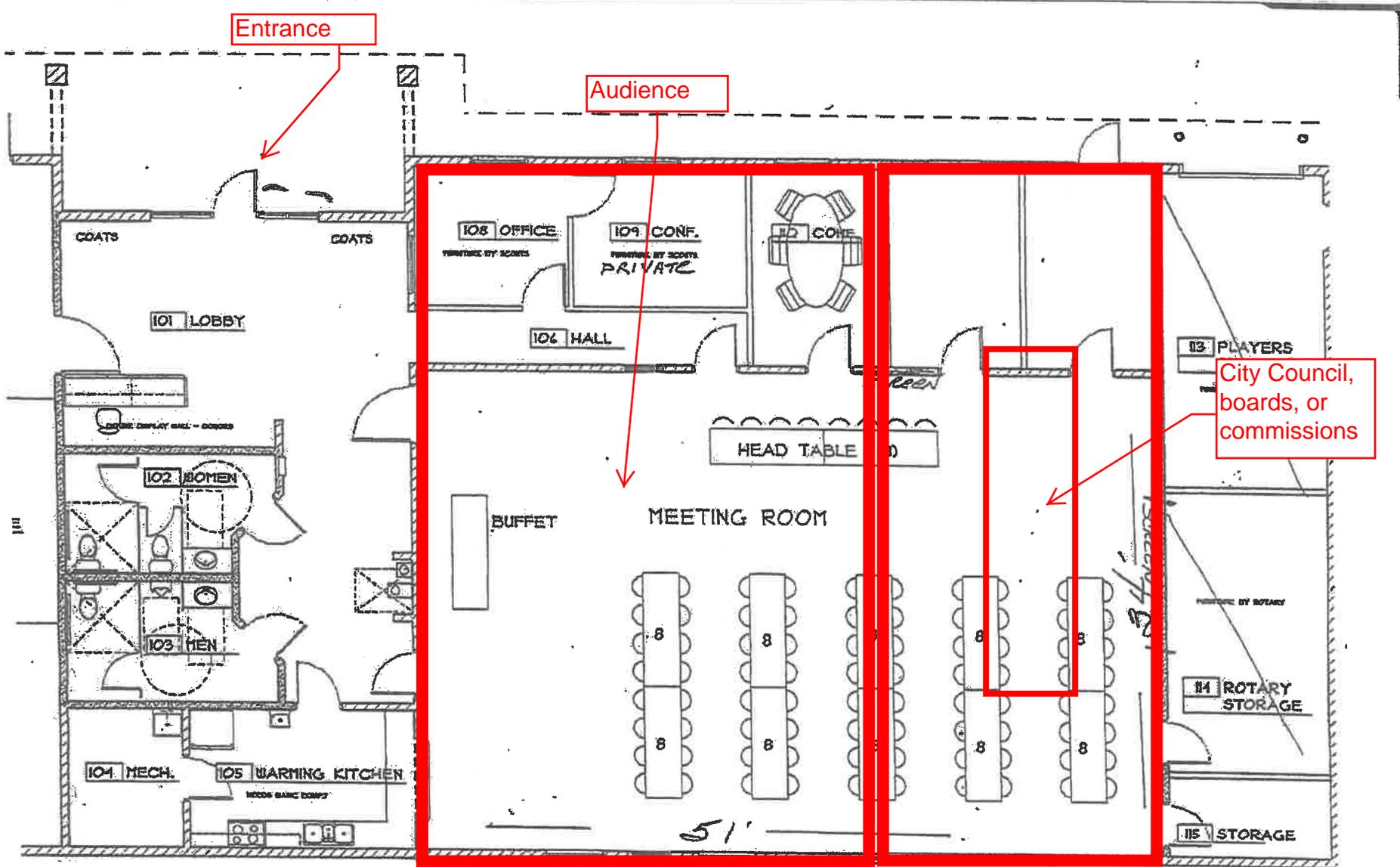
- Library – Meeting both in-person and virtual and would like to remain flexible through December 31.
- Brighton Area Fire Board - Meeting in-person.
- Brighton Area School Board - Meeting in-person, with in person public returning in August.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff does not have a strong recommendation one way or another, but given the options available, it makes sense for City Council to maintain flexibility. Although vaccination rates have increased, there is no saying what could happen heading into this fall/winter. Per the City Attorney, leaving the emergency order in place and/or extending it, does not mean the City is required to meet virtually. City Council could also wait until the next MDHHS Epidemic Orders are issued to see if there is further relaxation of restrictions prior to determining whether to return to in person and/or to extend the order.

Prepared by: Rob Bradford, Police Chief
Nate Geinzer, City Manager
Tara Brown, City Clerk

Reviewed &
Approved by: Nate Geinzer, City Manager



CAPACITY - 96 W/O HEAD TABLE

80 SEATED PLUS 8 AT HEAD TABLE

CAPACITY CAN BE INCREASED TO 144 WHEN ADDITIONAL TABLES AND CHAIRS ARE PROVIDED BY OTHERS