



**CITY COUNCIL Agenda Item #19-025**

**Date: Jan. 24, 2019**

**Consent  Discussion**

**SUBJECT:** Farmers Market on State Street

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** City Manager's Office

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** City council approve request for Farmers Market to close and use State Street during specific hours.

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME/PRIOR ACTION:** Community Prosperity, Environmental Stewardship, Welcoming Community

**EXPENDITURE REQUIRED:** None

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** N/A

**LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:** The Farmers Market require Council approval to close State Street during specific Saturday hours from roughly May through mid-October.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Two years ago, the Farmers Market moved up to State Street for three pilot project weekends to test the location's impact on the Market, State Street and downtown businesses, and City services. The experiment was a success in some regards – residents and tourists loved the new location, most of the farmers liked being up on the street, City services were not significantly impacted. But some State Street businesses felt the Market layout and sales eroded their Saturday business and profits. When the Market asked to move back up to State Street for the 2018 season (May-October), displeased local business owners protested and the move was rejected.

This year the Market has worked with the Montpelier Business Association, Montpelier Alive, the City Manager's office and State Street business owners to come up with a new layout that hopefully won't negatively impact the businesses. A copy of the new designed is attached.

Essentially the Farmers Market vendors will set up their stalls only along one side of Street (on the side with TD Bank, the candy and pet shop, etc.), back-to-back so they face both the sidewalk and the center of the street. The other side of State Street (Positive Pie, the toy store, etc.) will remain open for emergency vehicle access, although picnic tables will be placed along one section.

In addition, the Market will wind down into the top part of the Heney Lot at 60 State Street, which is their usual Saturday location. Work on the new stretch of the Recreation Path has closed the bottom piece of that lot, restricting the Market's ability to fit all vendors onto the Heney Lot.

The Farmers Market and the MBA will appear together before Council to outline their proposal and seek approval to close State Street during their regular Market hours. The City offices, including Public Works, Police and Fire, have been briefed and have no objection to the plan. We will all continue to meet and fine-tune the details as the May opening of the Market approaches.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

- Proposed layout on State Street

**INTERESTED PARTIES:** City Manager's Office, MBA, State Street businesses, DPW, Police, Fire

**CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Hoffman', is written over the 'CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL:' text.

2019 Capital City Farmers Market on State Street Proposal (DRAFT)



The exact setup is still flexible in case of specific concerns.

On street vendors dropped to about 35 (from 50).

By utilizing part of the current lot vendors will not be places near similar merchants.

Vendors moves towards north side of street.

Vendors organized in both the center of the street or along sidewalk to minimize interference with merchants.

Emergency travel lane must be maintained. This was moved to the south side of the street.

Bathrooms and trash removal being addressed.

**2019 Outdoor Season**

Every Saturday (May through October)

26 Market Days

9 am to 1 pm

**Ashton Kirol**

Market Manager

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