

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEAUMONT, SUSPENDING PARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING NON-RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES IN THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT AS IDENTIFIED IN THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICTS MAP FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to promote and encourage business activity in the downtown area of the City; and

WHEREAS, there are vacant buildings in downtown Beaumont built in decades past which cannot be utilized for their intended uses due to lacking the number of parking spaces required by the City’s current parking requirements; and

WHEREAS, Vacant buildings are a threat to public peace, health, safety and welfare as they contribute to blight, are a drain on City resources and fail to generate much needed business activity in downtown Beaumont.

WHEREAS, The City of Beaumont is in the process of preparing a Downtown Revitalization Plan and updating the zoning code, both of which envision a City structure that enhances the quality of life of the residents, enhances the health safety and welfare of the community, meets the community’s vision for the future, and connects new growth areas together with established Beaumont neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Current parking requirements do not support the City’s goals of achieving revitalization in the Downtown and promoting a vibrant, walkable environment and promoting the aesthetic and fiscal health of the community.

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing was conducted on this ordinance as required by law by the Planning Commission on August 23, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Beaumont has reviewed the reasons for the recommendation of approval by the Planning Commission as described above;

THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEAUMONT DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The City Council hereby finds that the temporary suspension of parking requirements established in Beaumont Municipal Code Chapter 17.05, in the downtown area, is consistent with the adopted policies in the City of Beaumont Economic Development Strategic Plan and the General Plan of the City of Beaumont. For purposes of this ordinance, the downtown area is defined in Exhibit “A”, attached hereto and made a part hereof by this reference. The suspension of Beaumont Municipal Code Chapter 17.05 shall end on the earlier of April 30, 2025 or when the City Council adopts the new zoning ordinance that is currently under review.

SECTION 2: The City’s General Plan and the Economic Development Strategic Plan include specific goals and policies that aim to promote fiscal stability and business growth. Specifically, goals of the City’s General Plan provide for maintaining and, where appropriate expanding the City’s commercial base and promoting development of modern and attractive business activities that will enhance the City’s economic well-being. The Safety Element of the General Plan strives to take public health safety and welfare impacts into consideration and incorporate measures to mitigate the likelihood of visual blight, nuisance and criminal activity. Due to the City’s need to update the Zoning Code and Economic Development Strategic Plan, it is important that the City study and evaluate options available to it regarding regulation of parking in the Downtown area to prevent the adverse impacts that may result from unoccupied buildings in the City’s downtown.

SECTION 3: In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15304(e), adoption of this ordinance is categorically exempt from CEQA, because it results in a minor, temporary alteration in the use of land which will have no permanent effect on the environment.

SECTION 4: This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its final passage and within fifteen (15) days after its passage the City Clerk shall cause a summary to be published in a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Beaumont, in a manner prescribed by law for publishing of ordinances of said City.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Julio Martinez, Mayor

Attest: _____
Deputy City Clerk

Approved as to form:

John O. Pinkney, City Attorney