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CITY OF БЕЛОIT PLANNERS LOOKING AT TWO NEW DOWNTOWN PROJECTS

Posted on: May 23, 2018

By AUSTIN MONTGOMERY

Staff writer

BELOIT — Two new businesses set to open in downtown Beloit will head before the city's Plan Commission on Wednesday, with one of the establishments requesting a sign ordinance exemption.

According to city planning staff, that issue briefly slowed down administrative process and prompted a slight redesign.

The commission will review Truk't Street Tacos, Tequila and Whiskey's exemption request to allow a larger-than-allowed sign at the location, 443 E. Grand Ave., downtown.

Blue Collar Coffee, located next door to Truk't, is not subject to the request, officials said.

The sign request comes after citing the current renovation plan and the need for a larger sign that will be visible at the four-way intersection.

Hendricks Commercial Properties, the owner of the Grand Avenue property, had originally asked for a sign greater than 20 square feet above the business's main entrance on May 9, but withdrew the size exemption and submitted a revised rendering on May 15.

The new sign was reduced from 10 feet to six feet, 10 inches and a proposed area of 20 square feet, according to the Plan Commission agenda. According to city staff, the engineering office reviewed the request and "remains concerned about the sign interfering with visibility of the traffic signals and encroachment into the right-of-way."

City planning staff recommends approval of the exception by Plan Commission.

Few details have been released regarding a timeline for the openings of Truk't and Blue Collar. Administrative efforts for Truk't, including securing a liquor license, started in February and crews have been working on remodeling the space since early March.

Hendricks Commercial Property Asset Manager John Gackstetter couldn't say when the businesses planned to open, but noted that Truk't will be "a gourmet taco and tequila bar" while Blue Collar Coffee will be a "small coffee shop."

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