

Drain *from A1*

entertainment businesses be subject to an annual police background investigation.

There was not consensus among the public or even city council, however, as the ordinance passed in a 3-2 vote on Aug. 1.

Just prior to the council's vote, Cobb stated that he had previously expressed concerns about the requirement of background checks.

"I still have those same concerns," he said. "I

think that's a bit overreaching."

The primary author of the ordinance, Drain City Councilor Jo Barker, maintains that it was just what the city needed.

"If I'm reading the community accurately, they are greatly relieved to see that the city drew a line in the concrete with this ordinance," she said in an interview with *The Sentinel* in August. "They know it has teeth."

With 96 total businesses required to apply for licenses, less than 20

percent have responded thus far.

"And if people do not respond to that reminder letter in a week or two, then we can increase our ability to let people know," said Cobb.

The ordinance allows for businesses convicted of violating any of the provisions to be punished by a fine not to exceed \$600 for any one offense, each day constituting a separate offense.

"But I want to avoid that as much as possible," said Cobb. "The City of Drain, if you are

a commercial and industrial business and you're having issues, is willing to put off the payment of the water and electricity until you can afford that."

Top of the Bowl, the business which was the catalyst for the ordinance, is currently closed as it deals with Oregon Liquor Control Commission violations regarding mask wearing in the establishment.

The issue may show up as an agenda item in the city council's January meeting, said Cobb.

Grant *from A1*

prohibited from operating as directed by Executive Orders 20-12 or 20-65; or

- The business can demonstrate a one-month decline in sales of 25 percent or more, incurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, between March 1 and Nov. 30, as compared against the same period of time in 2019.

Businesses must also be located within Lane County, be headquartered in Oregon and have their principal operations in Oregon.

If required by Oregon

law to be registered with the Oregon Secretary of State to do business in Oregon, the business must be so registered.

Businesses which have received federal dollars, through the Paycheck Protection Program or the Economic Injury Disaster Loan, are able to apply for and receive these grant funds.

Nonprofits of 501(c)(3) status are eligible, though 501(c)(6) entities are not.

Businesses must have had 25 full-time employees or less as of Dec. 31, 2019.

Priority will be given to businesses who meet any of the following cri-

teria:

- Businesses which identify as minority-owned, women-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned (51 percent ownership or more)
- Those businesses in the tourism, hospitality, and event sectors (defined as restaurants, bars, wineries, breweries, lodging, caterers and event rental companies)
- Those businesses which had to close due to either of the governor's ordered freezes (gyms/fitness, indoor rec, museums, indoor/outdoor entertainment, indoor/outdoor pools, sports courts, event

venues, zoos, gardens, aquariums)

- Rural businesses

The first lottery for priority-eligible businesses will commit 75 percent of funding (\$2,744,317) while the second lottery will draw from the remaining 25 percent (\$914,772).

Any priority-eligible businesses which are not selected in the first lottery will be included in the second lottery.

Community Lending-Works anticipates that businesses will receive funds the last week of December through mid-January.

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