

From Michael Cannon to All Panelists: 10:16 AM

Would you define how “working capital” is defined for EIDLs, and what “normal operating expenses” are excluded?

When will the City announce its long-term plan for outdoor dining? Other communities have long-ago secured plans, but when this matter has been raised with you, your COO, and the director of Economic Development, there has clearly been no meaningful action. Do you have an update?

From Amy Karibian to All Panelists: 10:17 AM

Would it be possible to please waive the field permit fees one more year so that my small business (yoga studio) can once again offer outdoor yoga classes on Victory Field without paying the \$25 per day permit fee? This was extremely helpful for keeping our small business running during 2020, and we would love to be able to offer outdoor classes again for spring/summer/autumn 2021. I understand the permit fees have been waived for restaurants for outdoor space; can you please do the same for yoga studios?

Thank you for considering. —Amy Karibian, Mystic Fitness, Framingham, MA

From Patrick Mosesso to All Panelists: 10:18 AM

I would like to post our job opportunities at Auto Bright Car Care. We have all shifts available, part time and full time. I have tried reaching out to Keefe tech for a student looking for mechanic experience and have not been successful. Is there any other job boards to list opportunities?

From Kelsey Roth - Exhibit 'A' Brewing to All Panelists: 10:21 AM

Kelsey from Exhibit 'A' Brewing: Is Framingham planning on following the state's timeline for COVID restrictions? Or do you feel that we may keep some restrictions in place based on specific Framingham COVID numbers?

From Michael Cannon to All Panelists: 10:31 AM

You’ve foreshadowed dramatic water rate increases for small businesses. Is that still your plan? As small businesses evaluate whether than can continue or reopen in Framingham, they’re hearing about these increases to already-high rates (and taxes). What can you share to alleviate these fears?

Also, friendly reminder to preserve and forward the chat log. We’ll discuss these issues at the next meeting of the City Council Economic Development Subcommittee, which I chair. Thanks! That can be forwarded to me at mcannon@framinghamma.gov

Thanks to Beth Reynolds in Ashland for putting that info on the Ashland website. Can we put it on ours? Also, many of the business owners on this call don’t know Erika, and may not have her email address. Perhaps those details (with fewer acronyms) would be helpful on this call?

From Hannah Voit to All Panelists: 10:31 AM

<https://www.ashlandmass.com/831/Grant-Opportunities>

From Michael Cannon to All Panelists: 10:34 AM

Do eligible business owners understand what “technical assistance grants” are? Maybe explain a little bit about how this can help them survive and thrive? There’s great info to share.

Very true, Mayor. Kudos to Elliot for incredible help with paperwork and application details. A superstar!

From Patience Noah Insurance LLC to All Panelists: 10:36 AM

Hi Shannon

This is Patience Noah and I’m a Framingham Alumni 🎓🎓🎓 graduated in 2008!

From Michael Cannon to All Panelists: 10:39 AM

KeefeTech is AMAZING! What a fabulous team mentoring outstanding young minds.

Mayor — Friendly reminder to touch on WATER RATES for small businesses. This is an area of MAJOR concern, and many are looking that as a factor of whether they can reopen or continue in Framingham. Also, the grant that Erika spoke about, is it true that the deadline is today at 11?

From Kevin Shea to All Panelists: 10:39 AM

Hi, Nicole Leone here from The Branches of Framingham. We are finding it difficult to find employees even with on the job training programs that we are offering. Hearing what Shannon just had to say was a huge help and I will definitely be reaching out to Keefe.

From Michael Cannon to All Panelists: 10:41 AM

What a fabulous KeefeTech success story! Welcome home, Patience!

From Mary Kate Feeney to All Panelists: 10:43 AM

What are Framingham's plans to support our local restaurants with outdoor dining?

Are there any plans to have a marketing campaign to draw attention to our restaurants and small businesses like many other communities are doing?

From Michael Cannon to All Panelists: 10:46 AM

Right, but this call is about "Reimagining Framingham Business - Post Pandemic" — so what is the plan for outdoor dining?

Other communities long ago secured those plans.

Water rates?

What is the deadline to apply for the grant that Erika mentioned? Is it truly today at 11?

From Susan Petroni to All Panelists: 10:46 AM

Businesses in Natick & Ashland pay lower taxes than in Framingham. Water & Sewer bills are high in Framingham. What can the City do to help businesses not only survive but thrive in the city?

From Kevin Shea to All Panelists: 10:47 AM

I would like to learn more about the financial programs available. Does the City website have the information?

From Amy Karibian to All Panelists: 10:48 AM

Yes! I had a great experience receiving resources. 2 x PPP loans; Framingham Small Business grant for 10k; and a Statewide grant as well. The help and support out there has been tremendous. The resources are out there, if you apply yourself.

From Jim Giammarinaro to All Panelists: 10:50 AM

Many banks in the chamber are still providing PPP loans. We can also advise on EIDL loans.

From Mary Kate Feeney to All Panelists: 10:55 AM

What can we do to encourage growth of remote working offices? We have a lot of empty office space and remote work is here to stay, but many people will want an affordable office space. Framingham can be a leader here. Venture X in Marlboro is a huge success. How can we do that, too?

From Hannah Voit to All Panelists: 10:57 AM

<https://www.framinghamma.gov/FormCenter/Office-of-the-Mayor-12/American-Rescue-Plan-88>
Survey in Spanish: <https://www.framinghamma.gov/FormCenter/Office-of-the-Mayor-12/American-Rescue-Plan-Spanish-90>

From Susan Petroni to All Panelists: 10:57 AM

putting information in the chat is not helpful as none of us can see the chat

From Hannah Voit to All Panelists: 10:57 AM

Survey in Portuguese: <https://www.framinghamma.gov/FormCenter/Office-of-the-Mayor-12/American-Rescue-Plan-Portuguese-89>

From Michael Cannon to All Panelists: 11:00 AM

Water rates? Taxes? Two MAJOR issues for Framingham businesses.

Do you have a plan to share? MWRA rates went up a fraction of a percent... you've forecasted MAJOR increases.

Taxes are driven by your spending. What's the plan to protect the small businesses you've incited on this call?

From Frank Wood to All Panelists: 11:01 AM

How many days left until you resign?

From Michael Cannon to All Panelists: 11:01 AM

^invited.

From Kelsey Roth - Exhibit 'A' Brewing to All Panelists: 11:02 AM

Thank you Mayor!!

From Kim Sigler to All Panelists: 11:02 AM

Thank you Mayor Spicer & Team....appreciate the opportunity to hear your views on the future of Framingham and the support for businesses based in Framingham...we/Bose plan to move forward with a soft re-entry for a larger number of employees this summer and hopefully larger re-entry in the Fall so looking forward to be back working in Framingham very soon! Best
Kim S.

From Amy Karibian to All Panelists: 11:02 AM

Thank you, Mayor.

From Kevin Shea to All Panelists: 11:02 AM

thank you