

CITY OF CLARKSTON

ITEM NO: E1

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HEARING TYPE:
Public Hearing

BUSINESS AGENDA / MINUTES

ACTION TYPE:
Resolution

MEETING DATE: September 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Code Revisions – Food Trucks

DEPARTMENT: Planning &
Development

PUBLIC HEARING: YES NO

ATTACHMENT: YES NO
Pages: 2

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PURPOSE: To adopt an ordinance amending Sec. 16-4.2 and Appendix A, Article III, Sec. 313 of the Clarkston Code of Ordinances, for the purpose of allowing food trucks to operate within the City.

NEED/ IMPACT: Food trucks and mobile food vending have become a popular trend nationwide. Several cities throughout the Atlanta region have established regularly-scheduled food truck events as a means to draw visitors, which in turn spurs economic development. Given Clarkston's location and desire to attract more people to the downtown/central business district area, the establishment of a regular food truck event is a logical step towards achieving that desired outcome.

Currently, City code restricts or prohibits many forms of outdoor vending. Sec. 16-4.2 of the Code of Ordinances restricts curbside sales of food and drink. This, in effect, would restrict a food truck from conducting business on public right-of-way within the City. Additionally, Appendix A, Sec. 313 lists "festivals" as being required to obtain a temporary land use permit from the City. While both of the aforementioned sections serve respective purposes, the handling of food trucks is unclear as both sections are currently worded. The ordinance proposed for adoption would add language to each of the aforementioned sections that defines the term "food truck" and provides the City Manager administrative authority to allow food trucks to operate on public right-of-way with advance notice.

Food trucks and similar mobile food services can help fulfill multiple development goals and objectives. These include but are not limited to the following:

- Encourage small business activity that can provide jobs and services for community residents
- Facilitate mobile vending to provide a test market for potential businesses and a stepping stone toward conventional "bricks and mortar" establishments
- Encourage street activity that enhances the pedestrian environment and vibrancy of key activity centers (both existing and planned)
- Revitalize large underutilized asphalt spaces, such as surface parking lots
- Provide opportunities for community events that utilize mobile food services and vendors

RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends that the City Council adopt an ordinance amending Sec. 16-4.2 and Appendix A, Article III, Sec. 313 of the Clarkston Code of Ordinances, for the purpose of allowing food trucks to operate within the City.