



Downtown Mobile Food Vendor Policy

Definition

Mobile Food Vendor means any portable or movable business engaged in the preparation, sale, or distribution of food or beverages from a vehicle, trailer, cart, kiosk, or other movable structure, whether motorized or non-motorized. The term includes, but is not limited to, food trucks, food trailers, concession trailers, mobile kitchens, food carts, and similar operations.

Purpose

The Downtown Development Authority recognizes that mobile food vendors contribute to a vibrant and active downtown by attracting visitors, increasing foot traffic, and creating unique dining opportunities. At the same time, the DDA recognizes the significant investment made by permanent downtown restaurants and businesses that operate year-round, maintain commercial storefronts, pay property taxes, utilities, and other ongoing operating expenses.

The purpose of this policy is to establish a balanced approach that supports special events, encourages additional visitation downtown, and provides opportunities for mobile food vendor operations while recognizing the important role of permanent brick-and-mortar businesses in the downtown business district.

The City has invested public funds in constructing The Depot, a City-owned downtown park located at 701 Delta Avenue, specifically to accommodate mobile food vendor operations through dedicated utility connections and supporting public amenities. Concentrating on routine mobile food vendor operations at this location maximizes that public investment while creating a consistent destination for residents and visitors.

The Depot was intentionally designed as a centralized gathering space that can accommodate mobile food vendors while complimenting nearby businesses, encouraging pedestrian activity throughout downtown, and providing the infrastructure necessary to support mobile food vendors.

Special Events within Downtown Gladstone

Mobile food vendors may operate within the Downtown Development Authority district as part of a City-approved Special Event conducted under an approved Special Event Permit authorized by the City Commission.

These events may include festivals, concerts, holiday celebrations, community markets, and other activities intended to draw visitors downtown.

During these events, mobile food vendor locations shall be determined through the Special Event Permit process.

Regular Downtown Operations

Outside of approved special events, the DDA intends for “The Depot” to serve as the primary location for mobile food vendor operations within Downtown Gladstone.

The Depot has been specifically designed to accommodate mobile food vendors through dedicated utility connections, customer gathering space, and supporting public amenities.

Mobile food vendors wishing to locate at The Depot shall:

- Reserve the site through the City.
- Pay the applicable rental fee established annually by the City Commission through the current fee schedule.
- Provide required insurance and health department licensing.
- Comply with all City ordinances and operating requirements.

Downtown Streets

Except as authorized through an approved Special Event Permit, routine mobile food vendor operations shall not be permitted on Delta Avenue, 9th Street, or 10th Street on public property within the downtown commercial area. Routine mobile food vendor operations are intended to occur at The Depot, the City-owned park located at 701 Delta Avenue.

This policy is intended to preserve the pedestrian environment, manage limited public parking, maintain traffic circulation, and concentrate on routine mobile food vendor activity at The Depot.

Review

The DDA may recommend revisions as downtown conditions, business activity, or community needs evolve.