



Board: Downtown Development Authority

Agenda Date: July 21, 2026

Presenter: Patricia West

Staff Report

Agenda Item Title:

Recommendation to Update Chapter 10 – Businesses (Mobile Food Vendor)

Background:

Downtown Gladstone has experienced increased activity, investment, and visitation through community events, business growth, and public improvements. As downtown continues to evolve, there has also been increased interest from mobile food vendors seeking opportunities to operate within the downtown.

Mobile food vendors can attract visitors, increase pedestrian activity, and compliment community events. At the same time, permanent downtown restaurants and businesses make significant year-round investments in commercial property, utilities, taxes, staffing, and ongoing operations. The DDA has expressed interest in establishing a balanced approach that supports both mobile food vendors and existing brick-and-mortar businesses.

In anticipation of the completion of The Depot, the City-owned downtown park located at 701 Delta Avenue, staff prepared a draft Downtown Mobile Food Vendor Policy identifying The Depot as the preferred location for routine mobile food vendor operations while continuing to accommodate vendors during City-approved special events. However, a policy of this nature needs to work in conjunction with the legal framework of our Code of Ordinances.

Staff recommends first updating **Chapter 10 – Businesses** of the City Code. The current ordinance primarily addresses hawkers, peddlers, transient merchants, and temporary structures, and does not clearly establish a regulatory framework for modern mobile food vendors. Modernizing Chapter 10 will provide clear authority and consistent administrative procedures before the DDA considers adoption of a companion policy that advances the City's broader economic development objectives for mobile food vendors within the downtown.

Fiscal Effect:

N/A

Supporting Documentation:

Code of Ordinances | Chapter 10 – Businesses
[DRAFT] Downtown Mobile Food Vendor Policy

Recommendation:

Motion to direct staff to work with the City Clerk to prepare proposed amendments to Chapter 10 (Businesses) of the City Code establishing a modern regulatory framework for mobile food vendors and to return with draft ordinance amendments and a companion Downtown Mobile Food Vendor Policy for future consideration by the Downtown Development Authority.