



CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2026

Mayor Primmer called the work session meeting to order at 6:30pm. Present were Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron (arrived at 6:33pm), Myers, Barron, and Kelso. Councilor Linton was excused. City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Richard Tovey, Finance Director Ignacio Palacios, Captain Robert Guerrero, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, Planning Director Clint Spencer, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Student Advisor Gabriel Richards was also in attendance.

Regulating Unlicensed Food Vendors

After hearing no one from the public needed Spanish translation services, Planning Director Clint Spencer presented information (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding how and why the City became aware of illegal food vendors, actions taken by the City to educate illegal vendors with vendor guidelines, applications, and warnings to obtain compliance and how all information both verbally and in writing has been provided in English and Spanish, gave information on current vending requirements, and asked the Council to consider adding illegal food vending to the City's nuisance code that would impose penalties to those who vend illegally and property owners who allow unlicensed food vending on their property.

Staff addressed Council and Student Advisory questions stating:

- The City would continue their efforts to educate vs enforce choosing to speak with and give warnings first, if those options do not yield compliance, the City could give a citation and force the illegal vendor to "shut down" requiring the illegal vendor pack all belongings and move from the property immediately
- Property owners could be cited each day for allowing illegal vending on their property
- Citations for illegal vending would not impede a person from obtaining a license if they choose to vend legally

Councilor Barron thanked City staff for the way they are handling illegal vending choosing education vs enforcement but also reiterating that people need to comply with regulations as they are meant to keep the public safe, specifically relating to preparing food.

Mayor Primmer stated that with this being more of a Town Hall kind of Meeting, public comment would be taken.

Public Comment

Jim Ruhe, Business Owner- Stated he is in the process of building a second food truck park on Tamarack Ave, between Third and Fourth Street as there is a need for additional food trucks.

David Walker, Hermiston County Resident- asked if additional food truck permits would be added as the number of current permits is not enough for the Community and he has already invested over \$30,000 in a coffee truck but can't get a vending license from the City.

City Manager Smith stated additional permits could be added if the Council chooses, however the addition of licenses was not a part of these discussions on illegal vending.



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Mayor Primmer said this is something the Council can review if there is a need.

Krista Van Veen, 764 W Alder Ave- Agreed with Mr. Walker's comments that additional vending licenses should be added as she has heard this many times in the community and asked that the City provide clarification on section 92.45 on three consecutive days language.

Rosio Hanson- Stated she started a food truck business in July of 2024, although it was a very challenging process she obtained all the requirements from the Umatilla County Health Department and City of Umatilla business license and insurance and planned to only sell during special events and fairs, however vending fees for special events were extremely expensive, when she applied to be a vendor at the City of Umatilla Landing Days Event she was denied without reason. Mrs. Hanson then decided to sell on weekends and afternoons in the parking lot of Sherwin Williams, with management's permission. After two weeks of selling, the Hermiston Code Enforcement Official contacted her and she was encouraged to reach out to the Planning Department where she was informed she needed a Food Vending License, was told which licenses were available and the cost of each license, and that permission from the owner -not manager- of the property would need to be given in writing to allow her to vend on their property. Although she wanted to do everything legally, these obstacles became too great and therefore decided she no longer wanted to sell food. Mrs. Hanson then received a call last month from the Umatilla County Health Department informing her that if she did not renew her annual license through them of \$480.00, she would be fined \$100.00 per month. Mrs. Hanson asked if the City of Hermiston does not have available mobile vending licenses, why the Umatilla County Health Department grants licenses and charges fees. She would have liked someone to have told her if licenses were available prior to having purchased a food truck and doing all other requirements.

Mayor Primmer stated he believes that people are given this information, whether there are food vendor licenses available or not- when they contact the Planning Department.

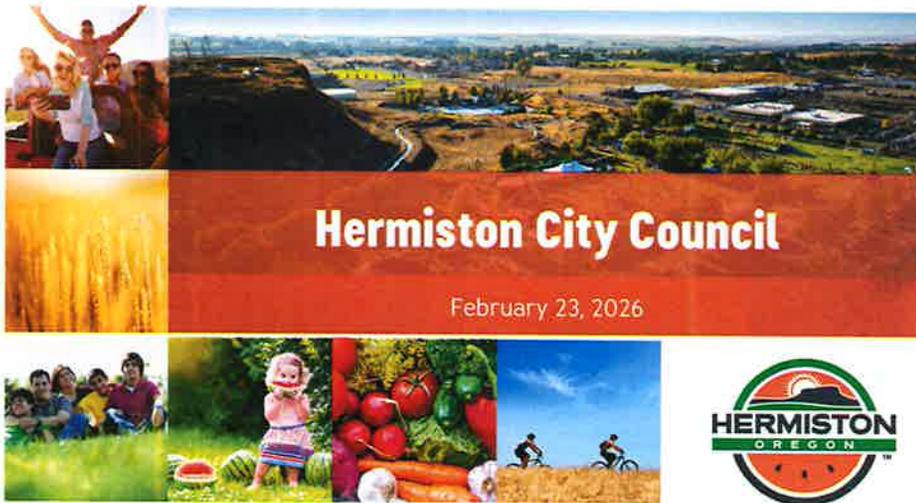
Mrs. Hanson stated she did not reach out to the Planning Department until after she had already purchased the food truck and had obtained other required permits.

Yesenia Rangel, 1655 SW Riverhill Dr- is glad to see all the people in attendance who want rules to be enforced and stated food is what brings people together, and this is a community coming together in a positive way. Ms. Rangel asked if Umatilla County would be doing any kind of enforcement as many illegal food vendors are setting up on the outskirts of Hermiston City Limits.

Mayor Primmer stated the Umatilla County Commissioners would have to approve illegal vending enforcement and encouraged Ms. Rangel to contact them regarding this matter.

Adjournment

The work session ended at 7:01pm and Mayor Primmer stated the City Council would convene for their regular council meeting after a five-minute break.



Our Local Concern

- Local licensed vendors asked city council for assistance
- Complaints submitted to code enforcement
- Social media discussion for and against



City Actions

- Bilingual social media campaign encouraging patronage of licensed vendors
- Mobile vendor guidelines and application are bilingual
- Created public map showing all licensed vendors
- Created bilingual handouts distributed to all unlicensed vendors
- Visited all unlicensed vendors with code enforcement, county health, and bilingual police staff to issue warnings and request compliance
- Worked with landowners to request trespass authority if desired





Proposed Ordinance

- No change to food truck regulations or permits
- Adds unlicensed food vending to city nuisance code
- Strengthens existing rules regarding licensing
 - Must have food handler's certificate from Oregon Health Authority
 - Must have permit from Umatilla County Health or Oregon Department of Agriculture
 - Must have Hermiston business license
 - Must have Hermiston mobile vending license
- Must have written permission from property owner to be on property
- Existing mobile vendors already meet all these requirements prior to receiving city mobile vending license



Proposed Ordinance

- Property owners allowing unlicensed food vending may also be held responsible for violating nuisance code
- Vending which does not require a Class I-IV license from Umatilla County Health remains exempt
 - Girl scout cookies
 - Prepackaged food
- Only food which is opened and/or prepared in the field requires the Class I-IV license
- A city business license still needed for other vending (flowers, sunglasses, etc.)
- Vending from a public right-of-way, including a sidewalk, still prohibited

