



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of March 23, 2026

Title/Subject

Ordinance 2381 – Amending Chapter 116 of the Hermiston Code of Ordinances to Increase Mobile Vending Licenses and Other Text Amendments

Summary and Background

The Hermiston City Council held an open house on February 23, 2026 to hear public concerns related to mobile food vending and the operation of food vendors within the city limits. Following the conclusion of the open house, the city council adopted Ordinance 2380 regulating unlicensed food vendors and instructed staff to prepare amendments to Chapter 116 to increase the available number of mobile vending licenses. In the process of reviewing Chapter 116, staff recommended additional text amendments to clarify and modify the existing regulations which have proven confusing or difficult to implement.

The amendments contained in Ordinance 2381 are as follows:

- Increase the number of annual licenses from 6 to 10 (116.05)
- Increase the number of 30-day licenses from 3 to 5 (116.05)
- Remove the event license as a category. (116.02)
- Compliance with the city FOG (fats, oils, and grease) program is required. (116.03)
- A spacing standard of either one unit per property, or a minimum of 100 feet between units on larger parcels is added. (116.07)
- Type 1 30-day licensed units are no longer to vacate the site every day. (116.08)
- The event license section is removed from the code (116.10)

The increase in licenses is a result of the motion made by city council on February 23. In considering the code as a whole, staff proposes several additional changes as housekeeping. It is proposed to remove the event license as a whole and reserve a section for future rulemaking. No event licenses have ever been issued by the city. In practice events which may have required an event license were already exempt from the provisions. All events have either been city sponsored events or otherwise held on public property, both of these functions are exempt in the current code.

The FOG program was implemented by the city council in 2024. By ordinance all food preparation businesses are already subject to FOG rules and participation in the FOG permitting. However for housekeeping, it is recommended that the FOG requirement be explicit in this code

as well. Obtaining a FOG permit becomes part of the licensing process and therefore cannot be missed in the process.

The 100 foot spacing standard or one unit per property is proposed for inclusion in considering the locations of existing vendors and potential locations for future vendors. The proposal aims to remove the potential for a property owner or business permitting two or three vendors in a parking lot thereby diminishing the business' available parking below that required by code and therefore creating additional burdens on surrounding businesses or traffic congestion impacting the surrounding area.

The requirement for 30-day licensees to vacate every day is removed as it is seen as placing an unequal burden on short term vendors.

Tie-In to Council Goals

N/A. The city council made a motion on February 23 to increase the number of available licenses.

Fiscal Information

Permit fees are collected for each license issued. An annual license is \$700. A 30-day license is \$200.

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

The city council may choose to:

- Adopt Ordinance 2381 as written
- Reject Ordinance 2381
- Request amendments to the text of Ordinance 2381 and consider revisions at another meeting.

Recommended Action/Motion

Staff recommends the city council adopt Ordinance 2381 as written.

Submitted By:

Clinton Spencer, Planning Director