



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of August 12, 2024

Title/Subject

Draft amendments to Chapter 116 are proposed for council review and discussion.

Summary and Background

The city council received testimony in April of 2024 from potential mobile food vendors requesting that the city review the existing mobile food unit framework and consider code revisions easing entry into the market for new vendors. At the direction of council, staff presented a summary of Chapter 116 of the municipal code in May and asked for direction regarding potential amendments to the code. At that time, the council directed staff to prepare a packet of potential code amendments for future consideration.

Attached to this memo is a draft ordinance with many revisions to Chapter 116. These revisions are based upon requests and concerns raised by existing and potential food vendors in interactions with city staff. They are also based on a survey of food vending regulations in eastern Oregon in general. Eastern Oregon communities generally have a fairly minimal set of regulations and Hermiston's current code is more detailed than any city surveyed. The existing code, however, addresses some issues which the city has had specific complaints about in the past, such as non-mobile vendors creating obstructions, nuisance torn and battered awnings, and other similar items.

The draft amendments before the council here are intended to ease entry into the market and create specific requirements for how vendors are actually operating under the code. The proposed amendments can be summarized as follows:

- Four types of licenses are created and the 90-day license is eliminated. The standard mobile vending license is split into two categories, an annual truck license and a 30-day cart license.
- Food pods are added directly to the code and provision for private food pods is created.
- Trucks are required to move once a week for twelve hours rather than daily.

- The 400-foot spacing requirement is eliminated for trucks and carts. Rather than regulating specific locations, the city retains control over the total number of licenses available.
- The requirement for three parking spaces for a truck is eliminated and is changed to demonstrating that there is sufficient parking available for the existing permitted commercial structure and the truck.
- The requirement that trucks be painted white, or a neutral color is eliminated.

There are other minor alterations to the code as well. The draft ordinance presented here is not intended for adoption at this meeting but is provided to facilitate discussion at the council level and to consider additional revisions. A final version of the ordinance will be prepared for adoption at the next council meeting based on the discussion and direction of the council.

Tie-In to Council Goals

Amendment to the code is being undertaken at the direction of city council. However, no specific goals are impacted by this discussion.

Fiscal Information

N/A

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

At this meeting staff is seeking feedback on the draft ordinance amendments. Additional comments, revisions, or rejection of revisions is sought.

Recommended Action/Motion

N/A

Submitted By:

Clinton Spencer, Planning Director