



ACTION ITEM REPORT

Item Title: Consideration and ACTION to approve the second reading of an ordinance of the City of Los Fresnos, Texas, establishing regulations for special events, pop up markets, and farmers markets; providing definitions; requiring permits; establishing application procedures, location and operational standards; authorizing markets in conjunction with other events; providing for fees, enforcement, penalties, severability; and providing an effective date.

Recommendation:

This is the second reading of the ordinance. The Council approved the first reading at the April meeting.

We are having many individuals wanting to put on a special event, pop up market, farmers market and similar type events. We currently do not have anything to specifically regulate them. They started with different businesses wanting to hold special events at their business but do not have the room for them due to limited parking and limited related facilities. To overcome this, we have allowed them to utilize the parks to hold these types of events. Unfortunately, now everyone wants to have one of these with them making a business out of that by getting vendors and charging them for a spot. This changed the original idea in making it an appreciation event for a business to a money making event.

This causes several problems. First, this is creating a business that is utilizing the parks at a very reasonable rate versus the normal business that has to purchase property, build a facility with restrooms, parking and everything needed and then pay property taxes. This gives these temporary type of businesses an unfair advantage. Additionally, these temporary businesses are now wanting to do them very weekend, not temporary. Secondly, they are utilizing the parks by taking up all the available times for the park to be used. Our residents can no longer hold birthday parties, family gatherings or just visit the park without it being full of commercialized businesses. That is definitely not the intent of our parks.

These markets should be held in other places besides the parks allowing families and groups to utilize the parks as they were intended. Any use of the parks for business activities should not be allowed. We will have a proposed ordinance to present by Tuesday for consideration. If accepted, it can be approved on the first reading and then in May, be approved on the second reading as is or with additional adjustments if proposed.

I recommend approval.