

**Minutes of City Council Workshop
Mobile Food Vending
Monday, November 4, 2013 – 8:10 PM
City Council Chambers**

Mayor Charlie Latham called the workshop to order at 8:10 PM.

The following City Council members were in attendance:

Mayor Charlie Latham	Chris Hoffman
Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Taylor	Phil Vogelsang
Keith Doherty	Jeanell Wilson
Steve Hartkemeyer - <i>absent</i>	

Also present was City Manager George Forbes, Planning and Development Director Steve Lindorff, and Cathy Martinich, City Clerk's Office.

Purpose of Workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss a proposed ordinance to allow mobile food vendors to operate within the City of Jacksonville Beach.

Discussion

Mayor Latham stated that tonight's workshop is an educational meeting for Council to review and discuss the proposed ordinance prepared by staff. He explained there would not be public comment during this workshop. Those who wanted to speak to Council regarding food trucks were heard previously during the "Courtesy of the Floor" at the Council Meeting.

Mr. Forbes began the workshop by explaining the history of the previous workshop conversations regarding food trucks, and reviewed the draft ordinance with revisions that were made by staff, per the direction of Council. He emphasized the food trucks must be moved each night.

Mr. Vogelsang commented he is opposed to using the word "carts" in the ordinance. He said the City of Jacksonville has a definition for food trucks called "Mobile Food Dispensing Vehicle", found at My Florida License.com. Mr. Vogelsang said a movable kitchen business requires more effort than purchasing and setting up a cart. He said having a written description would more easily regulate a food truck, encourage a more exclusive business, and not having a hotdog cart on every corner in the City. Mr. Vogelsang also proposed a sunset date of a year after the date of adoption of the ordinance.

Ms. Hoffman said she thought the requirements of the ordinance are too stringent and it will be a difficult process for businesses to meet compliance. She said Council should move forward with an ordinance that is "good not great" and make changes if necessary, after the process is in place. Ms. Hoffman said a 1 year trial period is reasonable as a sunset date.

Mr. Doherty stated there are very few places for food trucks to operate according to the current draft ordinance. He suggested looking at each business on a case by case situation instead of a blanket ordinance.

Ms. Wilson commented that Mr. Doherty was referring to a conditional use process. She said by that process, a food truck could be required to be in the same location when they are in the City. The City would have a greater ability to revoke a Local Business Tax if the business is not in compliance.

Mr. Taylor questioned who would be the responsible departments in the City to enforce the ordinance. Mr. Forbes explained that departments within the City would be determined to inspect and enforce the ordinance.

Mr. Lindorff was asked to explain the history of the Ritz food cart, how it came about, and why it is still in operation. Discussion ensued regarding the “cart” at the Ritz.

Mr. Forbes explained the difference between obtaining a permit and going through a conditional use process. Mr. Lindorff gave additional information about the differences in conditional use process, permitting, and required compliance. Discussion ensued regarding food trucks as a pilot project, to move forward and approve an acceptable ordinance

Mr. Forbes summarized the workshop discussion, and noted the following items as important points for staff to revisit while drafting the ordinance:

- Have a sunset date
- Simplify the ordinance as possible
- Use the Jacksonville definition of “Mobile Food Dispensing Vehicles”
- Investigate the Conditional Use Permit

Mayor Latham expressed his appreciation for everyone’s input. Based on the information gathered at this workshop, the City Manager stated that he and the Planning and Development Director, Steve Lindorff, will work on the next draft of the ordinance to present to Council, including the points of discussion from this meeting.

The workshop adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by: Catherine M. Martinich
City Clerk’s Office

Approved:

/s/William C. Latham
William C. Latham, Mayor

Date: November 18, 2013