

VENDOR'S COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 23, 2004 – 3:00 p.m.

Conference Room A

I. Call to Order

Councilor Raynolds called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Attendance and Introductions

Committee Members: Ned Raynolds, City Councilor; Steve Griswold, Deputy Fire Chief; Len DiSesa, Police Captain; Odysias Athanasiou, Health Inspector; Michael Warhurst, Trustees of Trust Fund; Jason Page, Code Enforcement Officer; Robert Sullivan, City Attorney; Kelli L. Barnaby, City Clerk

Others Present: Jamie Bateson, JLA Concessions; Dawn Pepe, Pepe's Tacos; John Gregorie, Hot Digits Dog; Tony Gutowski, Shoreline Hotdogs; Bill Shutt, Banana's Bar & Grill

III. Letter of Complaint – Larry Trager, Belle Peppers, regarding mobile vendors

Councilors Raynolds said that the purpose of this meeting is to examine the issues raised in Mr. Trager's letter and gather information to provide a report back to the City Council. He said that there is a potential for an ordinance change or to the fee schedule. He read Mr. Trager's letter that expresses his concern with mobile vendors hurting the local small business core. His letter outlined seven reasons why these types of food service operations should be banned.

IV. Review of City Ordinance Governing Mobile/Street Vendors

Councilor Raynolds said his observation is that the city allows mobile vendors with a minimum level of regulations. City Attorney Sullivan advised Councilor Raynolds that the Vendor's Ordinance was rewritten in its entirety in the last several years.

Councilor Raynolds asked Health Inspector Athanasiou and Code Enforcement Officer Page what type of monitoring do they perform with the vendor's. Health Inspector Athanasiou said that they conduct random reviews.

V. Review of Existing Licensees – Products and Locations

Councilor Raynolds reviewed the list of vendor's currently licensed. Dawn Pepe, Pepe Tacos, advised the committee that she had applied for a variance to set up her operation at Papa Wheelie's and was denied by the city. She then decided to set up on a city street and comply with all regulations of the ordinance. She informed the committee that her truck occupies one parking meter space and she feeds the meter

and only stays in the location for the two hours allowed by ordinance. She said that she has been respectful to other businesses and because of that she chose to set up on Hanover Street instead of Market Square.

Bill Shutt, Banana's Bar & Grill, said he was here today to take notes for Mr. Trager who was unable to attend the meeting. He advised the committee that downtown restaurants are getting a lot of competition recently and there are new establishments opening up everywhere in the city. He said that the restaurants are also dealing with high rent and taxes in downtown.

VI. Discussion/Questions

Councilor Reynolds said he would give more thought to the ordinance in terms of the scale of operation of vendors and the fee charged. He said he would not propose any amendments to the ordinance that would ban mobile vendors. He urged the vendors to work with the local downtown businesses. He advised the committee that he does not see a need for another meeting and that he will continue to observe the vendors and the ordinance.

VII. Adjournment

At 3:50 p.m., Councilor Reynolds closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kelli L. Barnaby, City Clerk