



Food Trucks and Municipal Code Council of Councils May 26, 2015

City of Great Falls Planning and Community Development



Outline

- ▶ How did it begin?
 - ▶ What do other cities do?
- ▶ What are they?
 - ▶ How are they defined by city code?
- ▶ What kinds of food trucks exist?
- ▶ What controls are in place?
- ▶ How were past inquiries answered?
 - ▶ Where can they operate today?
- ▶ Does anything need to be clarified?
- ▶ Who can get involved?



History

- ▶ Chuckwagon
 - ▶ Western U.S. (1860's)
- ▶ Hot dog stand
- ▶ Ice cream cart
- ▶ Construction site pull-up
- ▶ Food preparation and/or stove within utility van



“roach coach”



3601

3601

Other Montana Cities

- ▶ Billings: meter bags (Parking), food truck tracker
 - ▶ Missoula: any public property, conflict with brick-and mortar?
 - ▶ Out to Lunch (Park and Recreation), Downtown ToNight
 - ▶ Food Truck Tuesday street location (Destination Missoula)
 - ▶ Bozeman: “\$25 business license and an inspection by the health department. They can park anywhere other vehicles can.”
(Bozeman Daily Chronicle 2012)
 - ▶ Gallatin City-County Health Department: average cost \$115/year
(KRTV)
-
- ▶ **Every municipality has responded differently!**

Definitions

- ▶ An operable motor vehicle or trailer with current license plates that is specifically designed and built to serve as a self-contained mobile kitchen and serving area (city memo 17 June 2014)
 - ▶ Move on a regular basis
 - ▶ Self-contained tanks, NOT connected to municipal services
- ▶ Mobile food vending generates approximately \$650 million in revenue annually (Intuit, League of Cities 2012)
 - ▶ Estimated \$2.7 billion in food revenue by 2017

Types of Mobile Food Establishments

1. Food Truck

- 1. Self Sufficient Vehicle (Montana Public Health)

2. Mobile Market (prepackaged) Truck

3. Catering or Canteen Truck

- 1. Delivery to a station/table, not directly from truck

4. Food Trailer

- 1. typically dropped off and parked in a single location; require a secondary vehicle to tow them

5. Food Cart

- 1. Pre-packaged push cart

6. Bustaurant?

Claire & Hugo

CUISINE NOMADE



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Claire & Hugo

CA

Bringing it right to you.™



Hardee's
CHARBROILED THICKBURGERS

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Real BURRITO
ORIGINAL, GARDEN OF EDELWEISS

NATURALLY

Hardee's

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PARKING

Common issues

- ▶ Not allowed in my neighborhood (zoning)
- ▶ Too close to my place of business (restaurants)
- ▶ Parked too long in one location
- ▶ Open too late / unclear business hours
- ▶ Perceived advantage over brick-and-mortar location
 - ▶ No central mailing address, kitchen (commissary)
 - ▶ No property taxes
 - ▶ No amenities such as seating, restrooms
- ▶ Health concerns? must directly affect public health, safety
- ▶ **No explicit definition of mobile outdoor food vending**

Advantages

- ▶ Lower start-up costs and operational costs
 - ▶ Small is beautiful
- ▶ Niche/ethnic
- ▶ Local
- ▶ Can travel to demand
 - ▶ Isolated job sites, industrial areas, “food deserts”
 - ▶ Can temporarily occupy abandoned, blighted lots if given permission of property owner
- ▶ Home business or extension of brick-and-mortar
- ▶ Advertising: social media



HOLLYWOOD
Cone

f /HollywoodCone @HollywoodCone

MR. FREEZE SLUSH
Served with 6.5 cream!
-MILK
-ORANGE
-LIME
-LEMON
-RASPBERRY
-STRAWBERRY
-CHERRY
-MANGO
-PEACH
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Soft Ice Cream
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NOW SERVING

HOLLYWOOD
Cone

City precedent

1. **Food trucks as an Accessory Use**
 - ▶ Zoning I-1, I-2 private property
 - ▶ Zoning Permit fee (with proposed location)
 - ▶ Non-resident vendors permit

2. **Itinerant Outdoor Sales (17.20.8.020)**
 - ▶ Zoning C-2, C-3, M2 private property
 - ▶ NO C4 Downtown
 - ▶ Limited to 5 days a month (location and scope)
 - ▶ Does not preclude special events: farmer's market, Alive@5, etc.

- ▶ **Sidewalk food vendor (17.20.8.060)**
 - ▶ Public property
 - ▶ Limited in dimensions, location, litter control

Controls in place

- ▶ **Time Limitation / Mobile**
 - ▶ move on “a regular basis”, can set limit
 - ▶ Lottery assignment
- ▶ **Place-specific**
 - ▶ Public land (parks), public right-of-way, or private?
 - ▶ food-trailer park/hub, private-property “pod”
- ▶ **Use**
 - ▶ Accessory use within I-1, I-2 zones
 - ▶ Itinerant outdoor sales
- ▶ **Special Events Permit**
 - ▶ Special Alcoholic Beverage License (state), application
- ▶ **Inspections**
 - ▶ City-County Health Department



Image source: Texas Truck Yard (Dallas)

Permitting

- ▶ **Planning and Community Development**
 - ▶ Non-resident vendor permit
 - ▶ Zoning permit (including site location)
 - ▶ Litter control plan

- ▶ **City-County Health Department**
 - ▶ Primary contact
 - ▶ Inspections

- ▶ **Other methods available**
 - ▶ Business license
 - ▶ Vendor/vehicle decal
 - ▶ Written permission of private property owner
 - ▶ GPS
 - ▶ Proof of liability insurance, driver's license copy, etc.



Interests

- ▶ **City-County Health Department**
- ▶ **City of Great Falls**
 - ▶ Planning and Community Development
 - ▶ Park and Recreation
 - ▶ Fire Department
 - ▶ Public Works
- ▶ **Food truck operators**
- ▶ **Downtown interests**
 - ▶ NC#7
 - ▶ DGFA/BID
 - ▶ DDP
- ▶ **All residents**

Questions?



Ord. 2764, 2000; Ord. 2745, 1998

- ▶ "Non-Resident Vendor" is any person engaged or employed in the business of selling to consumers by going from consumer to consumer, either on the streets or to their places of residence or employment and soliciting, selling or taking orders for future delivery of any goods, wares or merchandise. This definition applies to persons vending food or other merchandise from pushcarts, vehicles, trailers, or other readily mobile sources to customers within the City limits. *No vendor shall park a vehicle or any other moveable or temporary entity on any public street, alley or private lot for more than four (4) hours in any eight (8) hour period at one (1) location.* The parking of a vehicle or other movable entity within three hundred (300) feet of the original location is considered one (1) location. This all-inclusive definition applies to vendors coming into Great Falls to provide any type of service (e.g. painters, contractors, tree trimmers, computer technicians, etc.), to residents within the City limits.

