

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Sam Kunz (Community Development Chair), Council Chair Cindy Mehnert, Tom Perry, Laurie Osher, Terry Greenier, Cheryl Robertson, Town Manager Sophie Wilson, Community Development Director Dave Milan and Town Planner Kyle Drexler.

2. CITIZEN REQUEST: A Resolution Urging the United States Congress to Enact a Revenue-Neutral Fee on Carbon Fuels

Resident Ron Davis provided information and requested the Orono Town Council consider passing a resolution urging the US Congress to enact a revenue-neutral fee on Carbon Fuels. He presented a proposed resolution for Council to consider.

The Committee discussed the impact of a revenue-neutral fee on carbon fuels, how it would work and the dividends. The Committee discussed financial impacts on citizens, environmental benefits, and agreed to the concept of encouraging change with a broader statement. The Committee agreed to bring forward a broader resolution statement to Council for public comments.

The Committee agreed to send their suggestions for changes to the resolution to Town Manager Sophie Wilson. Ms. Wilson will create a list of areas of agreement among Councilors.

The revised resolution will be brought back to the Committee for review before being forwarded to Council.

3. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: Local Regulation of Lunch Wagons/Food Trucks

Town Planner Kyle Drexler explained that the Town of Orono currently does not address lunch wagons (aka food trucks) in the ordinance; however, the request for licenses has increased. Mr. Drexler gave a brief presentation defining lunch wagons, describing existing state law and the municipal regulatory constraints, and asked the Committee about the next steps and desired regulatory goals.

The Committee agreed to have Mr. Drexler draft an ordinance for the Committee to review.

4. Community Development Department Update

Dave Milan provided a brief update on the following activities/events in the Code Enforcement, Planning, and Economic Development Departments:

- Town Planner's list of items he is currently working on.
- Code Enforcement Officer reciprocal backup services with Old Town.
- Rental Registration Program for first time violations.
- Changes in freedom of speech signs.
- TIF application being reviewed by the State.
- Business interest on Park Street.
- Nexxlinx building opportunity.
- Marijuana facilities.

5. Brief Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager provided a brief report on the following items:

- Retirement celebration for Evan Richert in the fall.
- Future discussion of proposed Limited Hotel for fraternities (May 1-August 31).

6. Adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Minutes are summary only. An audio recording of the meeting is available on the Town's website at www.orono.org under Agendas and Minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Executive Assistant

7.

Mobile Food Vendors

Preliminary Discussion

State Requirements

- Mobile Food Vendors License
 - License obtained through Dept of Health and Human Services
 - Each mobile unit is required to have license, even if owned by same person
 - Applications must be received 30 days prior to opening to allow for inspections and processing

Definitions

- Mobile food service establishment shall mean and include only a **food service establishment on wheels** that transports and sells food;; and is moved to a different location no less than once every twelve (12) hours...mobile food service establishments include pushcarts, food vending trucks/trailers and ice cream trucks.
- Any **motorized vehicle** designed to be portable and not permanently attached to the ground from which food is peddled, vended, sold for sale or given away.
- A mobile food vendor is a self-contained food service operation, located in a readily movable **motorized wheeled or towed vehicle**, used to store, prepare, display or serve food intended for individual portion service.
- Any **motorized or nonmotorized vehicle**, trailer, food truck, or other device designed to be portable and not permanently attached to the ground from which food is vended, served, or offered for sale.

Opportunities

- More cost-friendly than opening a traditional restaurant
- Mobile nature allows for expanded customer base
- Provides job opportunities
- Creates foot traffic and encourages social interaction which can lead to positive community and economic impacts in the surrounding area

Challenges

- Conflict with more traditional restaurant owners over fairness
- Food trucks can sometimes operate in areas not zoned for commercial uses
- Can create parking and accessibility concerns if allowed to operate in any location

Policy Consideration: Location

- On-street and/or off-street parking locations
- Private and/or public owned lots
- Commercial and/or residential zoning districts
- Regulations requiring minimum distances to nearest restaurant
- pre-selected list of possible locations for operation



Policy Consideration: Operations

- Some communities create operational standards for things such as:
 - Hours of operation
 - Some establishments may want night-time hours
 - Placement of seating
 - Can create accessibility issues
 - Waste receptacles
 - Avoiding potential litter concerns



Policy Consideration: Health & Safety

- Inspections by municipal departments and staff
 - Fire
 - Code enforcement
 - Life & Safety
 - Police
- Items to consider
 - Emergency access
 - Propane tank location



Policy Consideration: Administration & Enforcement

- Who is the reviewing party?
- Should only a licensing process be implemented or should land use issues be of concern as well?
- Who is the point of contact for receiving or delivering the initial application?
- Does a license/permit cover multiple locations or only one?

Final Thoughts

- Various types of mobile food vendors can add an element of character and convenience to a community
- Can also provide an easier start-up opportunity for someone looking to open a food establishment than a traditional restaurant
- Orono has many opportunities and locations for a food truck to be successful
- However, there are regulatory aspects to consider so to avoid any public health or nuisance issues