

THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LIBERAL CITY COMMISSION

October 2, 2014

The special meeting of the Liberal City Commission was held at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located at 325 North Washington on Thursday, October 2, 2014.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Joe Denoyer, Vice Mayor Dean Aragon, Dave Harrison, Janet Willimon and Ron Warren.

City Staff Present: Finance Director Chris Ford, City Clerk Debbie Giskie, Economic Development Director Jeff Parsons and City Attorney Shirla McQueen.

Mayor Denoyer declared the meeting called to order and City Clerk Giskie declared a quorum present.

1. WORK SESSION - Discussion of City Licensing, Permitting and /Fees..

a. Food Vendors. *Mayor Denoyer advised the audience that no decision has been made on the fees or regulations at this time and the purpose of the meeting is to receive input from the public. He read the rules of the Commission and asked the audience to remain civil.*

Members of the audience who came forward to speak to the Commission included:

David Hawkins, Gabriel Lam, John Engel, Dave Valentine, Kevin Lam, Nancy Moreno, Daniel Reeve, Jeff Young, Andrea Lowry, Justin Barnes, David Jordan, Ada Linenbroker, Vicki Kauffman, Vanessa Reeve, Zach Buchman, Chris Linenbroker, Michelle Stoddard, Mike Cooper, Laura Hershey and Enrique Franz.

A synopsis of the comments included:

- Everyone should be treated fairly across the board;
- The fees should be increased, but not increased dramatically to cause some out of business;
- Food trailers stimulate the economy;
- Food trailers provide a choice and variety of eateries in the community;
- Competition is good;
- A central location should be found such as a Food Truck Park, with utilities provided;
- Liberal should embrace/grasp this opportunity to be unique;
- Need codes for appearance;
- Late hours are convenient;
- Food trailers are becoming very popular and everything is going mobile;
- We should establish a food truck competition and draw others into town; and
- Be supportive - the food truck owners are living their dream/trying to make a living.

Mr. Valentine, director of operations of Wendy's, advised they had been in Liberal for 32 years and the Liberal facility is slated for remodel. He indicated it is difficult to justify expending millions of dollars to update the facility when there are three food trucks on the same block. He indicated he wasn't afraid of competition, but wanted a fair playing field.

In the end, the general consensus was that tighter standards/restrictions need to be in place to address safety concerns, such as parking, traffic hazards, pedestrian traffic, location of propane tanks and cleanliness of the food trailers.

The Commission thanked everyone for coming and providing their input. Mayor Denoyer indicated there would be additional public meetings regarding this issue.

b. Solicitors.

Curtis Allen, Alarm Protection of Kansas, appeared before the Commission to discuss the possibility of changing the solicitors regulations to allow for a yearly license similar to what Garden City has. *Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission to have City staff and legal counsel to discuss the fee structure and bring back this item for approval at the next meeting.*

c. Sunday Liquor Sales.

City staff presented information from the League of Kansas Municipalities on the requirements needed to pursue Sunday Liquor Sales. It was noted an ordinance needs to be adopted and it becomes effective after a 60 day protest period. *It was the consensus of the Commission for City staff to prepare the ordinance for consideration at the next meeting.*

The meeting was adjourned by motion of Vice Mayor Aragon.

Joe Denoyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra S. Giskie, CMC, City Clerk