

## Council OKs Food Cart Experiment:

### **USE OF THE LOWER CITY HALL PARKING LOT FOR FOOD TRUCKS ON A LIMITED BASIS**

**STAFF REPORT:** Planner Sean Holm explained that the proposal for food trucks in lower City Hall would be pilot project on April 12, 2015 and June 19-21, 2015. Currently, there are 5 food vendors interested in participating in the April 12 event. The April event will utilize 17 stalls along the park. The June event would be held the same weekend as Car d'Alene and utilize the entire lower lot in front of City Hall consisting of 62 stalls. This will allow staff to observe how the food truck businesses operate and monitor the turf in the area that would be acceptable for future use. This is part of the implementation of the CDA 2030 Plan as it supports new activities for the enhancement and vitalization of the downtown area.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilmember Edinger asked if the vendors would be paying for the location. Mr. Holm explained that on city property they will need a mobile concession permit that is \$25.00 per month through June; and after June it would \$50 per month. If the concession is in a park it would require a park fee of \$50.00 per truck per day. Councilmember Miller asked if the pilot project would include staff seeking feedback from the Downtown Association. Mr. Holm clarified that he did talk to the Downtown Association Manager, Terry Cooper, seeking any concerns during the project development, and Mr. Cooper did not have any. Staff has not had discussions regarding polling existing restaurants. Councilmember Miller expressed concern regarding the competition to local restaurants that try to stay open year round. Mr. Holm explained that his research found that mobile food vendors and restaurants are two different types of uses. Mayor Widmyer clarified that the project is a pilot project so staff could talk to Mr. Cooper after the event to ensure it is a positive thing in the area. Councilmember Gookin asked if there was a special zone within the downtown overlay that does not allow vendors and carts, etc. Mr. Holm stated that the overlay district prohibits drive-through types of businesses along Sherman. There is a portion of the municipal code that speaks to seeking permission of abutting and adjacent properties. It is difficult to manage space on Sherman. Councilmember Gookin felt that the regulations seemed to indicate that the downtown does not want mobile merchants there. Mr. Holm explained that the City would not be providing power so generators will be used and bathrooms will be available in McEuen, the Library, and City Hall. The vendors will be responsible for clean up and disposal of garbage. Councilmember Gookin expressed concern regarding the Car d'Alene weekend. Municipal Services Director Renata McLeod explained that the April event will be used to learn lessons for the Car d'Alene event and staff will be reporting back to the City Council prior to the Car d'Alene event. Additionally, the mobile vendor permits for the June event will need to come before Council for approval. Councilmember Evans said that she thinks this is an exciting event for Coeur d'Alene and that mobile food trucks are a popular movement across the United States.

**MOTION:** Motion by Evans, seconded by Miller to approve Mobile Vending Permits for Meltz Extreme Grilled Cheese; The Jamaican Jerk Pan; 3 Ninjas, LLC.; Shameless Sausages; and Coeur de Breizh Crepes for the City Hall Lower Parking Lot on April 12, 2015, with staff seeking feedback from the Downtown Association and other local businesses after the event. **Motion carried.**

