

**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC HEARING
JULY 17, 2018**

Ordinance Editing Schedule of Permitted Accessory Uses, Section 27 for Food Trucks

President Cantor: We'll call the 6:15 Public Hearing to order. This is an Ordinance Editing Schedule of Permitted Accessory Uses, Section 27, for Food Trucks. Roll call, Ms. Labrot?

Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Davidoff, Dodge, Kerrigan, Sweeney, Wenograd and Williams were present. Councilor Fay was absent.

President Cantor: Thank you, Ms. Labrot. And we have a presentation from Town Staff.

Mr. Hart: Thank you, Mayor. I'll invite Mr. McGovern to come forward.

Mr. McGovern: Good evening. Mark McGovern, Community Development Director. In March 2017, the Council approved the Food Truck Ordinance that approved three types of food truck operations. One would be Food Truck Park. We haven't received an application for that. One would be food trucks vending on a public street but only in specific areas in the Industrial Zone. We haven't gotten any applications for those either. We've only gotten applications for what are food trucks as an accessory use to a commercial building in the Industrial Zone. And you may have seen the food truck parked – food trucks that are present pretty commonly at New Park Brewing.

So after a year or so of living with the Ordinance, we realized there was a little bit more efficient way in which we could administer the processing of permits. Under the current Ordinance, the applicant would have to go to Zoning, Health, and the Police Department. But since it's an accessory use and the prerequisites are really just with Zoning and with the Health District, we are suggesting that the requirement to go through the Police Department be eliminated. In the Schedule of Uses, there is also a limitation on having a food truck at your establishment as an accessory use for only three nights. That hasn't become a problem and so we also revised the Schedule to take that limitation out. So the Ordinance is a very short one, and really, the revisions that you can read are in the Schedule of Permitted Uses. And if you give me a minute, I will find the exact – Box Number 27 shows the language that's deleted in brackets and added to in an underlined sentence.

President Cantor: Thank you, Mr. McGovern. Are there questions from the Council? Mr. Barnes?

Councilor Barnes: Thank you. When the Ordinance was originally drafted, what was the – what did we consider the role of the Police to be? What was the function that we thought that they were going to serve?

Mr. McGovern: Well I think we focused more and expected there to be a greater level of activity for vending on the street that I think was consistent with some of the other permits that the Police Department issued. Assistant Chief McCue is here and might be able to speak more specifically to that issue or answer questions related to the police's role.

Asst. Chief McCue: Good evening. Robert McCue, Assistant Chief of Police. Yeah, the Police Department has a responsibility for on-street peddling, door-to-door solicitations. So when this was first coming up for a discussion, it seemed like a natural progression that the Police Department would get involved in that as an expansion because we anticipated there would be more interest in food trucks actually setting up on the streets. But our experience has been that we haven't to date had any trucks independent of those going to the New Park Brewery that have been interested in getting a permit. So that concern or thought just didn't prove out based on our history over the first year.

Councilor Barnes: And so if our – if the experience going forward changed, if we started to see more applications of trucks going to be on the street, would we reconsider this and possibly bring the Police back?

Asst. Chief McCue: No, we would – yeah, the Police Department would still control on-street sales. What this removes is those sales that're occurring on private property.

Councilor Barnes: Okay. Thank you.

President Cantor: Thank you, Mr. Barnes. Yes, accessory use to only – right? Mr. Wenograd, do you want to – this went through your committee for a quick overview, right, or do you want to – yeah?

Councilor Wenograd: I mean, I think we reviewed it. Yeah, it did go through our committee and our conclusion was that this was a reasonable change to be made at this time and...again, so far, so good, and let's hope it continues.

President Cantor: Okay. Thank you. Anything else from Town Staff? No?

Mr. Hart: No, Mayor.

President Cantor: Okay. And we did not have anyone on the signup sheet. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to speak to this Public Hearing? No. Okay. So I will in for the record a letter dated July 10, 2018 from TPZ

recommending approval and a letter dated July 10, 2018 from CRCOG finding no apparent conflict. And with that, I will close the Public Hearing.

Essie S. Labrot
Town/Council Clerk

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