



REQUEST FOR DECISION

MEETING DATE: March 27, 2023

TITLE: C-1248-23 - Business Licence Bylaw Amendment - Mobile Vending
- First Reading

DIVISION: Planning & Infrastructure

SUMMARY:

Bylaw C-1248-23 - Business Licence Bylaw Amendment is part of the revised mobile vending strategy for the City and is being brought forward for Council's consideration. This bylaw will amend Business Licence Bylaw C-975-16 to add a definition for Mobile Vending Business, make provision for Business Licences for mobile vendors, and allow for the inclusion of conditions on Business Licences.

PROPOSED MOTION:

THAT first reading be given to C-1248-23 Business Licence Bylaw Amendment - Mobile Vending.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

The City of Spruce Grove currently has approval processes for mobile vendors on private property, City parks, and within public roads. Administration was requested to find efficiencies in approval timelines to make it easier for mobile vendors to operate in Spruce Grove.

Planning and Development has worked with Enforcement Services and Recreation and Culture to evaluate regulatory and enforcement options regarding food trucks and other mobile vendors. Through evaluation of our existing bylaws and the practices in other municipalities a strategy has been developed to make mobile vending approvals easier and to address a variety of identified issues and concerns from both internal and external clients.

The proposed mobile vending strategy for the City consists of Bylaw C-1249-23, C-1250-23, and C-1248-23 that are proceeding together. These bylaws take regulation of mobile vendors out of

the Land Use Bylaw and put the provision for regulation of mobile vendors into the Business Licence Bylaw.

As part of the regulation of mobile vendors, it is important that safety standards are met. The proposed amendment to the Business Licence Bylaw includes the provision for adding conditions to a Business Licence. This will enable the City to require a satisfactory inspection permit from Fire Services to be on location and identify any other standard limitations or regulations for mobile vendors (e.g., permitted operational hours, limiting mobile vending to non-residential sites, etc.).

Clarity is also being added to the Business Licence Bylaw to identify that failing to comply with any conditions of a Business Licence may lead to fines or cause the business licence to be deemed invalid.

Every business operating within the City of Spruce Grove requires a business licence. Mobile Vending businesses are typically of a seasonal nature with some vendors choosing only to operate for a few months of the year. With this amendment, and an associated amendment to the Development Fees and Fines Bylaw, the City is acknowledging this seasonal nature and will be able to offer choices in the duration of a Business Licence for a mobile vending business.

OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:

This bylaw is being brought forward for consideration of first reading. Discussion and consideration of changes to the bylaw may be made at future readings.

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT:

Planning and Development worked with Enforcement Services and Recreation Services to evaluate options regarding food trucks and other mobile vendors. Through review of existing bylaws and practices in other municipalities, a strategy has been drafted to address the following:

- Clarity regarding mobile vending regulations on private property;
- Enforceability - Enforcement needs to be able to enforce if needed;
- Approvals need to be prompt;
- Safety standards need to be satisfied;
- Policy for use of public land; and
- Policy for use of road right-of-way.

IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATION:

The proposed bylaw should be considered with the other bylaws associated with the mobile vending strategy (i.e., Bylaw C-1249-23 - Land Use Bylaw Amendment - Mobile Vending and Bylaw C-1250-23 Development Fees and Fines Bylaw Amendment).

Following the approval of all three bylaws associated with the mobile vending strategy, a communication guide will be created by Planning and Development that will outline the process for mobile vending approval and the regulations that apply.

IMPACTS:

Approval of Bylaw C-1248-23 will establish a business licence type for mobile vending businesses and makes provision for the introduction of an additional enforcement tool through the Business Licence Bylaw.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are minimal financial implications from this decision. These vendors currently pay for a development permit. With this change, they will pay for a business licence. There are an estimated 20 of these permits a year.