

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENTS

7. Food Truck Amendments to Business Licensing By-law L-6, Including General Provisions Report

- J. Stobie, Owner/Operator Stobies Pizza – indicating he started his business because there was a market for late-night, downtown food; advising that he provides quality food and strives for the best product; expressing concern that the proposed food trucks will impact that market; noting there are a lot of restaurants downtown and allowing food trucks will not be done on a ‘level playing field,’ as it relates particularly to the overhead costs that restaurants pay; noting he employs over twenty people in two locations and he has concerns as to the impact the food trucks will have on them; advising that permanent businesses give back to the community; suggesting that the City consider a one-year pilot project and noting he is not opposed to the proposal, but wants the City to get it right.
- C. Bunting – 224 Westwood Drive – advising that he is the owner of Gouda Gastro food truck and operates currently downtown, on private property; indicating support for the staff report, noting that customer service and products enable consumers to decide; advising that the fun of a food truck is that it can go to where people are; noting that business expenses for a food truck are not dissimilar to traditional restaurants and that the goal is to add to the food scene, not take away from it.
- A. Saab, London Multicultural Club – indicating support for all new businesses, and noting that the project is a good opportunity and will create jobs; suggesting that only one license be issued to each company.
- S. Wright, 181 St. James Street – noting that he is in favour of the food truck proposal; advising that he grew up in Hamilton where food trucks have a good presence, including social media; suggesting that people want this, that social media has indicated good comments and that people want more diverse food options; suggesting that it will be young entrepreneurs that undertake this, not multi-national companies and it would be a mistake not to approve.
- A. Singh, Ward 5 (moving to Ward 6) – advising that he is a Western student, he supports the proposal but believes that the 100m separation distance from festivals and schools is too far; suggesting the businesses support each other; and disagreeing that food trucks would be responsible for any loss of existing businesses.
- J. Helmer, 24 Amy Crescent – suggesting that we need to keep what we have, but that this can be done by changing things to make all things better; noting that he doesn’t want to see nothing happen, like 2013; and suggesting that the market will decide what it can tolerate.
- J. Brown, 253 Victoria Street – noting his involvement with the Forest City Beerfest and indicating support for the proposal; advising that he does not agree that the business opportunities are finite, but rather this is an opportunity for expansion; acknowledging that the playing fields are not level, because food trucks are different from permanent restaurants and that each have their individual limitations and advantages; noting that he understands the concerns expressed, but feels that the businesses are so different, the concerns are not warranted.
- J. Zaifman, 67 Tetherwood Boulevard – advising that there are a great many intricacies to the proposal, but that it is very much aligned with the established priorities of the City Council; noting that the work of staff on this is tremendous and that a project so in synch with the City’s strategic plan should be advanced.