

**City Council Agenda Items
and
Contracts, Leases or Agreements**

~~3/1/2013~~ 3-19-13

City Council Meeting Date
Agenda Items Only

Kristina Jones
Submitted By

Division

Sustainability & Strategic Planning
Department

Action Required:

A resolution requesting staff to examine Fayetteville's Unified Development Code and recommend amendments that will promote residents' ability to grow and sell plant and animal based food products and provide greater food security.

N/A
Cost of this request

N/A
Category / Project Budget

N/A
Program Category / Project Name

N/A
Account Number

N/A
Funds Used to Date

N/A
Program / Project Category Name

N/A
Project Number

N/A
Remaining Balance

N/A
Fund Name

Budgeted Item

Budget Adjustment Attached

[Signature]
Department Director

3/1/13
Date

Previous Ordinance or Resolution # _____

[Signature]
City Attorney

3/1/13
Date

Original Contract Date: _____

Original Contract Number: _____

Paul a. Buhner 3-1-2013
Finance and Internal Services Director Date

03-01-13 12:59 RCVD
Received in City Clerk's Office
[Signature]

[Signature]
Chief of Staff Date 3-1-13

[Signature]
Mayor Date 3/4/13

Received in Mayor's Office
ENTERED
3/1/13
[Signature]

Comments:



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THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMO

To: Mayor Lioneld Jordan and City Council

Thru: Don Marr, Chief of Staff
Jeremy Pate, Development Services Director
Peter Nierengarten, Sustainability & Strategic Planning Director *PW*

From: Kristina Jones, Sustainability & Strategic Planning Project Designer and Coordinator *KJ*

Date: March 1, 2013

Subject: ADM 13-4331 Local Foods Ordinance Review

PURPOSE

Mayor Lioneld Jordan is sponsoring a resolution requesting City Council support for his request to have city staff examine the Unified Development Code and recommend amendments for City Council consideration that will make it easier for residents to grow and sell plant and animal based food products. This item has Alderman Matthew Petty's endorsement.

BACKGROUND

Along with timber resources and wild game, the grasslands of this region initially attracted settlers to Washington County who grew wheat, oats, corn, hay, strawberries, beans, tomatoes, tobacco, and eventually apples and other fruit crops, as well as chickens, pigs, oxen and dairy cattle. This began to change however, starting with Great Depression of the 1930s and the subsequent decline in rural population, coupled with the advent of modern-day conveniences and rising land costs. Today much of the agricultural tradition that sustained families in this area in the past has disappeared.

However, the last few decades have seen a rebirth of interest in locally produced foods and products. A local foods movement strives to build a locally based, sustainable food economy where production, processing and distribution are integrated with an emphasis on social health benefits and environmentally sustainable local food crops and products. Additionally, supporting a strong local foods system is essential to addressing the issues of hunger and nutrition. When an individual or family can easily grow food, more residents have access to affordable, high-quality nutrition. Nationally, one in six Americans is fighting hunger; in Fayetteville, the statistic is one in four, and Arkansas leads the nation with 19% of our population who are "food insecure," lacking consistent access to enough food for active healthy living. Feeding America has determined that 15% of Washington County's residents are food insecure, and according to the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Washington County also has the second highest SNAP (food stamp) enrollment rate in Arkansas. And these problems appear to be increasing. A 2009 study by the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance shows that the number of people in Northwest Arkansas served weekly by the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank rose from 6,200 in 2005 to 25,900 in 2009 - - a 318% increase in families receiving food assistance in only four years.

Recent activity and interest in the realm of local foods has been demonstrated by local organizations, programs, and initiatives including the following:

- Apple Seeds Inc., established in 2007, provides outreach and programs that help students and their families establish sustainable, lifelong, healthy eating habits.
- SNAP-Ed, a program administered through the Washington County Extension Service in partnership with Arkansas DHS and the U of A, is focused on educating food stamp recipients and low income families about healthy diet and exercise choices.
- The Fayetteville Community Garden Coalition was founded in 2009. Fayetteville currently boasts 20 community and school gardens and urban farms.
- Fayetteville Public Schools (FPS) educational gardens at ten schools demonstrate a local commitment to food and agriculture knowledge from the ground up. FPS is also currently introducing students to local foods and agriculture through their newly formed Farm to School program, with emphasis on local food procurement and healthy food education.
- Feed Fayetteville, formed in 2011, is an organization committed to alleviating hunger and cultivating a sustainable food network through strategic partnerships and making connections between organizations working on opposite ends of food issues to extend their reach and amplify their effectiveness.
- University of Arkansas Community Design Center was awarded \$15,000 in seed money in 2012 from the American Institute of Arkansas to begin developing “Fayetteville: 2030 Food City Scenario,” a plan for “healthy and safe food systems at a local scale...to build agrarian urbanism, where everything is designed around food production and how people live.” The plan is one response to Fayetteville’s increasing population, subsequent sprawl and the strain it places on the land, as well as a disconnect from food sources and a need for access to nutritious, sustainable food.

In the fall of 2009 Alderman Matthew Petty requested that the City begin looking at Fayetteville’s capacity for growing food in publicly owned open space. He met with the Sustainability Department in the spring of 2011, and staff began researching local foods movements in other cities and how city governments can have effective involvement. In October 2012, Feed Fayetteville solicited a community food survey including a question soliciting suggestions for Mayor Jordan about how to improve Fayetteville’s community food system, urban agriculture, and access to fresh food. The following are the most frequent comments that the Sustainability and Strategic Planning Department felt could be evaluated through City policy:

- use leftover space, such as in parks and excess rights-of-way, to plant food bearing vegetation;
- establish more community gardens and expand the animals and fowl ordinance;
- modify the zoning code to ease restrictions on farming and selling produce in town;
- provide and/or expand food composting services; and
- secure more partnerships with and support for local organizations and non-profits.

Through a second survey, the Fayetteville Forward Local Foods group ranked these priorities, the top three being: 1) Unified Development Code review and modification; 2) expanded ability to sell food onsite where grown; and 3) review of the Animals and Fowl ordinance for possible expansion.

Mayor Jordan has requested that staff assemble a group of stakeholders to review these priorities. Staff will meet with a small group consisting of farmers, agricultural law students, and food security professionals to study Fayetteville’s Unified Development Code and recommend amendments that will promote residents’ ability to grow and sell locally produced plant and animal based food products.

BUDGET IMPACT

None.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST CITY STAFF REVIEW THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE AND PREPARE AMENDMENTS TO ALLOW RESIDENTS TO RAISE FARM ANIMALS AND SELL CROPS, ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS IN NON-AGRICULTURALLY ZONED AREAS TO PROVIDE GREATER FOOD SECURITY FOR FAYETTEVILLE RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, 15% of Washington County's population is food insecure, which means lacking consistent access to enough food for active healthy living, and Arkansas ranks number nine in the nation in child food insecurity at 28%, while only 0.1% of Arkansas's food is sold in state directly to consumers; and

WHEREAS, expanding access to healthy food, reducing hunger, and encouraging healthier diets are of critical importance to our community's health and the reduction of our food insecurity rate; and

WHEREAS, a sustainable local food system requires community support for buying local and promoting sustainable agriculture, and working together through partnerships is important and necessary to reach the goal of a strong and sustainable local food system; and

WHEREAS, the many recent community programs and initiatives including Fayetteville Public Schools Farm to School program, the Fayetteville Community Garden Coalition, the creation of the Nation's first SNAP garden and the success of and demand for more Fayetteville Farmers' Market locations from citizens and farmers alike, all illustrate Fayetteville's support for local agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Fayetteville Forward Local Food Group and Feed Fayetteville conducted community surveys gathering information on food priorities for Fayetteville; and

WHEREAS, the Unified Development Code should be studied to possibly authorize residents to practice animal husbandry and to sell crops, animals and animal products in non-agriculturally zoned areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby recognizes that a robust local food system will provide accessible, affordable nutrition for our citizens and economic stability for our community, and hereby requests the Sustainability and Strategic Planning Division work with local stakeholders to study Fayetteville's Unified Development Code and recommend changes that will promote citizens' ability to raise farm animals and sell crops, animals and animal products in non-agriculturally zoned areas to provide greater food security for Fayetteville residents.

PASSED and **APPROVED** this 19th day of March, 2013.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

By: _____
LIONELD JORDAN, Mayor

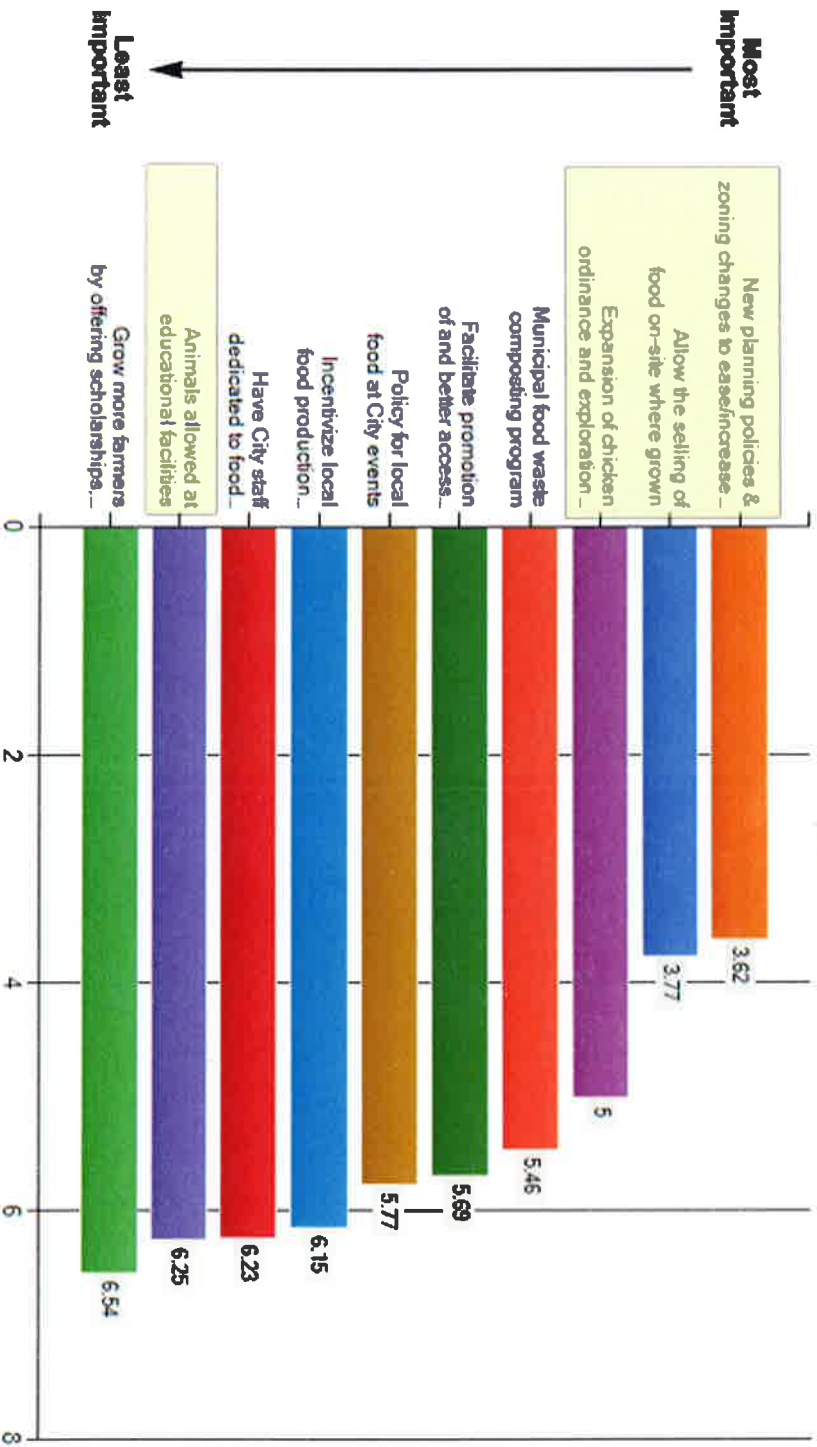
By: _____
SONDRA E. SMITH, City Clerk/Treasurer

Fayetteville Community Food Survey:

What suggestions do you have for Mayor Jordan about how to improve our community food system, urban agriculture, and access to fresh food?

Gardens/Public Space	
Use leftover space (City Lands/ Parks/ROW/Schools/POA properties) to plant food bearing vegetation in, accessible to all.	14
More Community Gardens and promotion of	8
City encourage/require planting food bearing landscape plants & trees as part of landscape reqs/mitigation	3
City position dedicated to Community Gardens	2
Make community gardens easier to establish and access.	1
Offer SNAP in all community gardens	1
City Ordinances/Policies/Programs	
Amend chicken ordinance to allow for more and expand to goats and other animals.	9
Create/modify zoning for Urban Agriculture/Conservation- make it easier to farm in town	5
Tax incentives for donated garden land/ sustainable garden set ups	2
City Composting	1
Overturn POA rules stating that residents cannot grow vegetables in front flower beds	1
Research and implement a more wholistic local food shed scenario.	1
Carbon tax on non local foods	1
Encourage and make rooftop gardens the norm	1
Farmers' Market	
More, easily accessible (pedestrians and outskirts of town), and larger Farmers' Markets, at different times of day	8
Support Local: Local Farmers and local food in restaurants/grocery stores	7
Support/Promote Farmers' Market	3
More evening markets	2
More education on SNAP Benefits at Market and follow through on program	2
Market at U of A	1
Farmers' market vouchers for City employees	1
More value added products at Farmers' Market	1
Create opportunities for selling of food outside of Farmers' Market- difficult to get in	1
Support partnerships btwn Farmer's market and local stores	1
Education	
Campaign/educate promoting the benefits of local foods/gardening- make it popular	8
Local food & gardening education in school	4
Food Preservation Classes/Canning programs	3
Encourage healthy good food in schools	2
Seed saving /food growing classes	2
Gardening assistance/ garden planning education	1
Organizations & Partnerships	
Partnerships- University, Fayetteville Schools, Surrounding area	5
Support local food non profits	1
Support/Promote Botanical Garden	1
Online Resources	
Website with local foods resources	1
Create a space to advertise available gardening land	1
Provide links to gardening resources and provide garden related donations	1
Community exchange program for goods- produce,compost etc.	1
Food & Local Food- General	
More local/health foods stores- need lower prices	4
Encourage City facilities and businesses to source food locally	2
Push for accurate food labeling	1
Encourage local restaurants to donate leftover foods	1
Facilitate food donations and distribution	1
Other	
Community building - neighborhood community kitchens/block parties	2
Create a place that houses emergency food stores for those in need.	1
Hire a group to conduct a regional local food assessment	1
Open a food preservation center	1

FAYETTEVILLE FORWARD LOCAL FOOD GROUP FOOD POLICY SURVEY
 Based upon Community Food Survey results and Local Foods Action Group replies, the following preferences have been chosen to represent citizens' input. Please rank these priorities with 1 being most important to you in the City's commitment to local foods and community food security and 10 being least important.



CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE
 SHORT TERM ACTION



