**Food trucks to become the new future for Athens**

Athens-Clarke County Commissioners envision food trucks to turn Athens into a foody city and attract tourists while improving the Athens-Clarke County economy.

After a month of politics and meetings between downtown restaurant owners and commissioners, the ACC Commission voted unanimously for the latest food truck ordinance Tuesday night.

Commissioner Mike Hamby said the food trucks help the community in three ways. First, food trucks encourage people to start a business. Second, food trucks will change Athens into a foody town, which will help attract tourists. Last, food trucks demonstrate the ACC Commission’s care for recognizing small businesses. “Food trucks are a good product for the community,” he said.

However, Tim Dinsley, local resident of Athens said he dislikes the new location for food trucks at the south side of Hancock Avenue between College Avenue and North Lumpkin. “It will be hard for people to see,” Dinsley said.

“There is no activity near the city hall on a daily basis,” Commissioner Melissa Link said. “The new location for the food trucks near city hall will attract more civilians in the area.”

Commissioner Allison Wright also said different communities require food trucks to be stationed one block away from major restaurants in the city, so the new location for the Athens food trucks will fit the same requirement.

“The beauty of food trucks is that they do a good job of attracting customers no matter where they are stationed,” Hamby said.

Abby Davis, University of Georgia student who works at Kona Ice, voiced her support for the food trucks. She said the food trucks first help the community by hiring students who need money, which they use to return to the Athens economy, and second, food trucks add to the existing culture.

Hamby and Davis both praised the delicious and fast food that food trucks provide, which they believe will help Athens become acknowledged as a foody city.

According to the commissioners, the UGA Student Government Association, representing the student voice, has been sending in letters in support of the food trucks. Jaamy Zarnegar, general manager and co-owner of the Last Resort Grill, spoke Tuesday night in support of the food trucks.

With the continuous support from business owners to students, the ACC Commission voted 10 ayes for the food truck ordinance.

“Study shows food trucks are good for the economy, culture and brings a more diverse crowd downtown,” Link said.