

CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

City Council Meeting: 05-08-25

Department: Administration

Subject: Discussion on Food Truck Regulation

BACKGROUND

The presence of food trucks in our city has grown in recent years, bringing with it both increased dining options and concerns from local brick-and-mortar restaurants. While our current regulations provide for food trucks to operate during designated hours and under annual or daily licensing requirements, some members of the restaurant community have expressed dissatisfaction, citing issues of unfair competition and impacts on their businesses.

In response, staff reached out to our planning consultant, Jon James, for insight on how other municipalities are addressing similar issues. His feedback indicated that regulatory approaches vary widely—from basic registration requirements to more restrictive ordinances governing location, hours of operation, and proximity to other businesses.

Three main areas of regulation were identified:

1. **Food trucks operating in the public right-of-way**
2. **Individual food trucks on private property**
3. **Permanent food truck parks**, with or without another principal use

Cities generally tailor their food truck ordinances based on the specific issues they aim to address, whether related to traffic, safety, neighborhood impact, economic fairness, or otherwise.

PROPOSAL

Staff recommends that City Council initiate a discussion to determine what specific concerns we wish to address through food truck regulations. The outcome of that conversation will guide whether updates or revisions are needed to our existing ordinances.

Council may consider:

- Whether additional location restrictions are appropriate
- If designated food truck parks should be encouraged or limited
- Whether proximity requirements to existing restaurants should be evaluated
- The effectiveness of current licensing and enforcement mechanisms

Staff can work with Jon James and our legal team to draft revised ordinances if directed.

