



Executive Summary

City Council Workshop

AGENDA ITEM:	Ordinance 344- Amending Chapter 4, Article 4 - Mobile Food Units
PREPARED BY:	Kevin Larson, Assistant City Administrator
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion	

Summary

The proposed amendments to Chapter 4, Article 4 modernize how Maple Plain regulates mobile food units. The current ordinance primarily focuses on vending in public streets and rights-of-way, leaving ambiguity around food truck operations on private property that is open to the public. Whether on public streets or private lots accessible to the public, the revisions address this gap by clearly extending the Code's applicability to all mobile food units operating within city limits.

These updates ensure the City can verify compliance with health, safety, and insurance standards while maintaining reliable contact information for enforcement and complaint resolution.

A new 300-foot proximity standard between mobile food units and brick-and-mortar restaurants. This provision is intended to support the long-term stability of local businesses while still allowing food trucks to operate with written consent or during City-approved special events.

These revisions bring Maple Plain's mobile food unit regulations up to current industry and legal standards, clarify expectations for operators, and provide the City with consistent and enforceable regulatory tools.

Areas addressed for the potential changes

1. Applicability (Public vs. Private Property)
2. Registration Requirements
3. Proximity Restrictions

Proposed Alterations

Sec. 4-99. - Definitions.

Updates this section by replacing outdated "vehicle" terminology with "mobile food unit," aligning the Code with modern industry standards. The revised definition broadens the scope to include both

motorized and non-motorized units operating on public streets or on private property open to the public.

Sec. 4-100. - Requirements.

Expands applicability beyond public streets to all mobile food units operating anywhere within city limits, including private property open to the public. The updated section clearly identifies exemptions, such as delivery vehicles, government-operated units, and operations occurring on private property for events not open to the public.

Sec. 4-104. - Insurance requirements.

Specifies that all mobile food unit operators must maintain a minimum of \$1,000,000 in general liability insurance and provide proof of insurance immediately upon request.

Sec. 4-106. - Registration requirements

Modernizes registration procedures to improve compliance and oversight. Updates include requiring:

- A permit fee under the City's fee schedule;
- Proof of a valid Hennepin County or Minnesota Department of Health mobile food license;
- Proof of insurance;
- Written consent from private property owners when operating on private property open to the public.

The section also authorizes the City Administrator to suspend or revoke a registration for violations and requires operators to prominently display their registration badge.

Sec. 4-109. – Proximity to Brick-and-Mortar Restaurants.

Creates a 300-foot buffer between mobile food units and brick-and-mortar restaurants to protect established businesses and promote commercial district stability. Exceptions are allowed with written consent from the affected restaurant or when operating under a City-approved special event permit.

Sec. 4-110. – Violations and Penalties.

Establishes the City's authority to inspect mobile food units and outlines enforcement actions, which may include administrative fines or suspension or revocation of registration. Violations are treated as administrative offenses subject to penalties set by City Council resolution.

Council Direction

Staff is looking for Council to provide direction to either keep the code framework as is or consider amending code with some (or all) of these adjustments.

Exhibits

- A. Ordinance No. 344 Amending City Code Chapter 4, Article 4 - Food Truck