



Planning and Economic Development

Sara Roediger, AICP, Director

From: Sara Roediger, AICP, PED Director
Jodi Welch, Ordinance Manager
To: Planning Commission
Date: 3/15/2023
Re: Proposed Food Truck Regulations

Given the increase in popularity of food truck businesses and those specifically requesting to operate in the City, staff has been researching best practices in regulating food trucks since they are not specifically addresses in city ordinances. Staff would like to establish simple, straight-forward regulations to enable food trucks to safely operate in Rochester Hills without adverse impacts to the City's existing brick and mortar restaurants.

A Food Truck ordinance has been drafted in coordination with the City Attorney that creates a Food Truck licensing process, issued by the Ordinance Enforcement Division, that requires them to receive a Special Event permit as regulated in [Chapter 79 Special Events](#). An annual fee and fire safety inspection will be required after an application is approved. There are a number of requirements to ensure that the trucks are operated in a safe manner including:

1. Being situated on sites in a safe manner that does not interfere with vehicle and pedestrian circulation or parking.
2. Providing sufficient areas for waiting, pick up, seating, and waste removal.
3. Being located at least 200 feet from an existing restaurant that serves similar cuisine at the same time.

It is important to note that there are exceptions to the requirements for small scale or one-time events that would like a food truck. These include neighborhood events, events on private property that are not selling to the general public (think weddings, employee events, etc.), and events that last less than 4 hours as noted in the ordinance. These types of events happen regularly and the City is not looking to create an overly burdensome process for those types of events.

Because the ordinance is proposed to be located in the City's Code of Ordinances, it will go to the City Council for a first and second reading and does not require a Planning Commission public hearing. As a courtesy, draft ordinance language is attached for the Planning Commission's knowledge and input.