

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

29-26

Ordinance No. _____ Passed _____, _____

AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 153.002 AND 153.172 AND
ADDING CHAPTER 123 TO THE DUBLIN CODIFIED
ORDINANCES TO ADDRESS FOOD TRUCK OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, the City of Dublin recognizes a community desire to frequent and be served by licensed food truck vendors in various areas within the City of Dublin’s corporate limits, and

WHEREAS, current City Code lacks comprehensive regulations for the safe, regular operation of food trucks within the entirety of the City of Dublin, and

WHEREAS, it is periodically necessary and proper to amend City Code to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Dublin, and

WHEREAS, City staff, through consultation with community stakeholders, has prepared a proposed Chapter 123 to the City Code, which would provide comprehensive regulations for the safe, regular operation of food trucks within the City of Dublin, and

WHEREAS, City Council has determined that the proposed Chapter 123 to the City Code balances private property interests, safety concerns, and engaging experiences in relation to food trucks, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Dublin, State of Ohio, 6 of its elected members concurring, that:

Section 1. Sections 153.002(A)(6)(c) and 153.172(C)(4)(f) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Dublin are hereby amended, and Chapter 123 is added, all as set forth in the attachments to this Ordinance.

Section 2. The definitions set forth in Code § 123.01, the operations regulations set forth in Code §§ 123.04 and 123.05, the operations-enforcement regulations set forth in Code § 123.08, and the penalty set forth in Code § 123.99 shall each be effective upon the effective date of this ordinance.

Section 3. The license-related provisions set forth in Code §§ 123.02, 123.03, 123.06, and 123.07 shall be effective on March 1, 2027.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be effective on the earliest date permitted by law.

Passed this 8th day of June, 2026.



Mayor – Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


Clerk of Council

To: Members of Dublin City Council

From: Megan D. O'Callaghan, City Manager

Date: May 20, 2026

Initiated By: Matt Earman, Director of Parks and Recreation
Jason Anderson, Director of Public Service
Kendel L. Blake, Assistant to the City Manager
Lori Gischel, Events Administrator
Jeffrey Jiang, Performance Management Analyst
Anthony Severyn, Assistant Law Director

Re: Ordinance 29-26 Amendments to Sections 153.002 and 153.172 and Adding Chapter 123 to the Dublin Codified Ordinances to Address Food Truck Operations

Summary

The topic of food truck regulations was introduced to City Council on May 11, 2026, to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for food truck operations within the City's corporate limits. The ordinance includes amendments to existing Dublin Code provisions related to food truck definitions and operations and creates a new Chapter 123 dedicated to food truck regulations. The proposed amendments are intended to provide clear standards for operators, support public safety, minimize conflicts with existing brick-and-mortar businesses and enhance community vibrancy in appropriate locations.

Proposed Code Amendments

At the May 11 meeting, staff presented the proposed food truck regulations and reviewed the policy considerations previously discussed by the Public Services Committee. Council expressed support for updating the Code and establishing citywide regulations that are clear, enforceable and responsive to the operational needs of the community.

Council also emphasized the importance of using the period between adoption and February 28, 2027, as a "pilot" period to evaluate implementation, designated locations, operational considerations and community feedback before the formal license requirement takes effect on March 1, 2027. This delayed effective date would allow the City to evaluate operations, collect feedback and determine an appropriate license fee through the City's comprehensive cost study.

During the pilot period, operators will not be required to apply for or maintain a City food truck license, and all proposed license-related provisions would also not be effective until March 1, 2027. All operational standards and location requirements, however, would be effective upon the normal timeline.

Until the formal license requirement takes effect, food truck operators would be asked to submit a valid and current Food Service Operations License with their first request to reserve time in a "designated food truck parking zone." This license is administered under state law, and providing this license would help ensure that any food truck that operates within the City during the pilot

program is maintaining the basic health and safety standards under state law throughout the pilot program.

A central element of the proposed framework is the designated corridor approach recommended by the Public Services Committee and supported by Council. Under this approach, food truck operators can clearly identify where they may operate, rather than assessing whether a desired parking spot would be unlawful (for any one of many reasons). Designated locations are intended to balance several priorities, including minimizing competition with existing restaurants, maintaining safe traffic and pedestrian circulation, supporting parking management and providing a positive experience for residents, visitors and food truck operators.

Food truck operators would be able to reserve their spot in a designated food truck parking zone in advance, rather than occupy them on an open or first-come, first-served basis. This proactive-reservation process would allow the City to manage food truck placement, avoid conflicts with City-approved events, monitor impacts on surrounding uses and ensure operations occur only in appropriate locations.

Beginning March 1, 2027, operators would be required to provide documentation confirming they are authorized and prepared to operate safely and legally. Required documentation would include a valid Food Service Operations License through the State, a state-issued driver's license and valid vehicle registration.

Council was supportive of the 12 designated locations initially proposed by staff and provided additional locations for consideration. Those additional locations have been incorporated into the proposed designated food truck parking zone list for the pilot period. Staff will continue to evaluate each location based on safety, parking availability, proximity to existing restaurants, operational feasibility and community feedback.

At City Council's request, staff considered the possibility of locating food trucks within Riverside Crossing Park rather than in the on-street parking spaces along Riverside Drive. Following an internal evaluation, staff is not recommending food trucks within the park at this time due to several site-specific operational and infrastructure concerns. The park's topography, existing infrastructure and circulation patterns create limitations for accommodating vehicles of this size. Food trucks typically weigh between 8 and 10 tons, making it infeasible for them to travel or stage on the shared use paths without potential impacts to the paths and surrounding infrastructure. Use of these areas by heavy vehicles also could create accessibility concerns, including potential impacts to ADA compliance.

In addition, vehicle access would need to occur on the north side of the bridge for both entry and exit, which presents operational challenges that require further evaluation. Staff also recommend observing how the space functions during Christkindlmarkt, including how visitors move through the park, how the space is utilized and whether temporary event operations reveal additional constraints or opportunities. This will allow the City to make a more informed recommendation before considering any future food truck operations in Riverside Crossing Park in partnership with the Riverside Crossing Park Master Plan effort.

Based on Council feedback, the permissible on-street parking area for food trucks along Riverside Drive has been reduced to the northern portion of the road. While this adjustment will help limit congestion and keep sidewalks clear, staff remains concerned about food truck compliance with the designated parking area, potential jaywalking by patrons and whether food truck operators will find those spaces desirable or practical for service. Staff also continues to have concerns about potential safety impacts along this high-traffic corridor.

Council also requested that staff evaluate whether a revenue-sharing model could be established for food trucks operating at sports complexes where a partner organization currently manages on-site concessions. After further review, staff and the Law Department do not recommend moving forward with this approach. A revenue-sharing arrangement could create various legal and administrative concerns. It also could create inconsistencies between food truck operators based on location and complicate the City's ability to administer the program in a clear and uniform manner. For these reasons, staff recommend maintaining the proposed designated-location framework without establishing a revenue-sharing requirement for food trucks operating at sports complexes.

Council also suggested revising the penalty provisions to include a progressive disciplinary approach rather than proceeding directly to a third-degree misdemeanor. Staff and the Law Department believes that this suggestion may stem largely from a potential miscommunication during a colloquy at the May 11 meeting concerning penalties and enforcement procedures. As presented at the May 11 meeting, proposed Code § 123.99(A) states that it is a third-degree misdemeanor to violate proposed Code §§ 123.02, 123.06, and 123.07. That is because each of these provisions concern operations under a valid food truck license and ensuring that the information upon which a food truck license is to be issued remains accurate while the food truck operator is operating under the license. These actions are at the core of the proposed Chapter 123, and they relate to a food truck operator's truthfulness and intention to fully comply with the purpose of the licensing process. Thus, staff and the Law Department believe that a third-degree misdemeanor is warranted based on the seriousness of the offenses.

Code § 123.99(B), on the other hand, covers the remaining provisions of proposed Chapter 123, all of which regulate food truck operations, such as park locations and hours of operation. Unlike Code § 123.99(A), Code § 123.99(B) is progressive in nature: for a first offense under any specific operations subsection, a minor misdemeanor; for a second offense of *the same* operations subsection, a fourth-degree misdemeanor; and for any subsequent violation of *the same* operations subsection, a third-degree misdemeanor. The punishment escalates based on the food truck operator's decision to repeatedly violate the operations subsection.

Finally, the actors with enforcement authority under proposed Code § 123.08 may exercise appropriate discretion to educate food truck operators on proper compliance before exercising their authority to notice any violations or issue citations. Thus, the current enforcement and penalty paradigm is already structured in a manner that matches the attendant criminal culpability and balances enforcement priorities with opportunities to educate food truck operators (as appropriate).

The Law Department made minor scrivener's edits to the draft code language that was provided for review at the May 11 meeting. Unless otherwise discussed in this memorandum, such edits are non-substantive and intended to clarify the code's stated intent, remove redundancies and ensure section cross-references are accurate.

Education Plan

Education will be a critical component of the pilot program. Staff will develop a clear and accessible webpage outlining the license and application process, designated food truck parking zones, reservation procedures, operational requirements and dates or locations that may be unavailable due to City-approved events.

Staff will also prepare user-friendly graphics and quick-reference materials to help operators, property owners and the public understand the new regulations. Through the benchmarking process, staff identified the Central Ohio Food Truck Association (COFTA) as a potential outreach partner. The association could help share information with its membership and support broader awareness among food truck operators. Food truck operators use Street Food Finder to book locations, while members of the public use it to locate food trucks in their area. Staff plans to meet with Street Food Finder before May 26 to determine whether Dublin can use this existing resource to support food truck operations.

Recommendation

Adoption of Ordinance 29-26 at the second reading/public hearing on June 8, 2026.

Chapter 123: Food Trucks

123.01: DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Chapter 123, the following words and terms have these meanings:

“City–Approved Event” means any activity or gathering or assemblage of people upon public property or in the public right-of-way for which a street closure or Community Event Permit has been issued, or other permission granted in writing, by the City of Dublin.

“Community Park” means any park designated as a community park either in the City of Dublin Parks & Recreation Master Plan or by the City Manager or the Manager’s designee.

“Designated Food Truck Parking Zone” means a public parking space, grouping of public parking spaces, or any other area that the City Manager or the Manager’s designee has designated as a lawful location upon which a food truck may operate.

“Food Truck” means any apparatus or equipment that is used to cook, prepare, and/or serve food and/or beverage, and that routinely changes or can change location and is operated from a moveable vehicle or apparatus, including but not limited to motorized vehicles trailers, and hand propelled carts.

“Food Truck Application” means the application form on which a food truck operator applies for a food truck license, submitted to the City Manager or the Manager’s designee on a form provided by the City Manager or the Manager’s designee or through an approved electronic application process.

“Food Truck License” means an official document issued by the City Manager or the Manager’s designee authorizing the operation of a food truck within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin for up to one year.

“Food Truck Operations Equipment” means the equipment that a food truck operator needs to operate their food truck, including all cooking equipment, food preparation equipment, refrigeration and/or cold-storage equipment, hot-holding and/or warming equipment, sanitation and hygiene equipment, power equipment, fuel sources, ventilation systems, fire safety and emergency equipment, service and customer-facing equipment, and storage and organization equipment, but excluding any tables or auxiliary stations that the food truck operator provides solely for customer use as permitted within this Chapter.

“Food Truck Operator” means an owner and/or operator of a food truck that operates or seeks to operate within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin subject to this Chapter.

“Ice Cream Truck” means a food truck from which frozen desserts of any kind are carried, sold, stored, and/or dispensed for purposes of retail sale, or offered for retail sale, while such food truck it is operating within the public rights of way.

“Neighborhood Park” means any park designated as a neighborhood park either in the City of Dublin Parks & Recreation Master Plan or by the City Manager or the Manager’s designee.

123.02: LICENSE OR PERMIT REQUIRED FOR OPERATION

- (A) No individual or organization shall operate, or cause to be operated, any food truck within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin without a valid food truck license and all required licenses issued in accordance with the laws and regulations established in the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, and the City of Dublin Codified Ordinances, as applicable.
- (B) The fee for a food truck license shall be as set forth from time to time by ordinance.
- (C) Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as superseding, supplanting, or otherwise replacing any duty imposed by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3701 or 3717, or rules or regulations promulgated thereunder, upon an application for a health license, or upon a department of health in the conduct of its responsibilities relative to food trucks.

123.03: FOOD TRUCK APPLICATION

- (A) Before any food truck may operate within the limits of the City of Dublin subject to Section 123.02, the food truck operator shall submit a food truck application, which shall request from the food truck operator at least the following information:
 - (1) The name, permanent address, telephone number(s), and e-mail address(es) of the food truck operator;
 - (2) The business name or DBA, permanent address, and telephone number of the food truck business if different from the food truck operator’s information;
 - (3) A copy of the food truck operator’s Mobile Food Service Operation License, issued in accordance with Chapter 3717 of the Ohio Revised Code;
 - (4) A copy of the food truck operator’s State of Ohio Transient License (if applicable);
 - (5) A copy of the food truck operator’s valid State-issued vehicle registration (if applicable);
 - (6) A copy of the food truck operator’s valid State-issued driver’s license; and
 - (7) A copy of the valid State-issued driver’s license of every current employee whom the food truck operator intends to allow to drive the food truck or operate a vehicle that transports the food truck from one place to another, excluding emergency towing.

The City Manager or the Manager’s designee may request additional information from the food truck operator through the food truck application. A food truck application submission is not considered to be complete until the food truck operator has provided,

- to the City Manager or Manager's designee's satisfaction, all information requested in the food truck application.
- (B) A food truck operator must submit a separate food truck application for each and every food truck that they intend to operate within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin.
 - (C) Within fifteen (15) business days of receiving a complete food truck application, the City Manager or the Manager's designee shall examine the food truck application and provide a written determination in response to it. During this period, the City Manager or the Manager's designee may make, or cause to be made, any further investigation into such food truck application as they deem necessary, and they may extend the review period up to an additional fifteen (15) business days as needed to complete such further investigation.
 - (D) The City Manager or the Manager's designee shall provide a written determination in response to each complete food truck application submission. If a complete food truck application is denied, then the reasons for such denial will be provided to the food truck operator in writing. If a complete food truck application is approved, then the food truck operator shall register the food truck with the City of Dublin Division of Taxation before beginning operations under the license.

123.04: OPERATIONS

- (A) Within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin, food truck operators shall not:
 - (1) Fail to display on or within the food truck the licensure mark issued under this Chapter;
 - (2) Fail to ensure that all food truck operations equipment is contained within or on the food truck, including while operating the food truck;
 - (3) Use speakers or audio amplification for any purpose, unless the food truck operator is operating an ice cream truck and such amplified sound falls within the noise/sound amplification parameters set forth in Section 72.021 of this Code;
 - (4) Be open for business or otherwise operate, on any given day, before 7:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m., unless permitted to operate outside of these hours as part of a City-Approved Event;
 - (5) On any given day, park their food truck upon public property or parking space(s) between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m., unless permitted to do so as part of a City-Approved Event;
 - (6) Tap into or otherwise use a power or water source belonging to the City of Dublin, any private party, or any other business to operate their food truck, unless the food truck operator has obtained the written consent of the party responsible for such power or water source;

- (7) Use an independent fuel source that produces or disperses noxious smoke or fumes, or an engine or generator power source that produces unreasonable noise, such that it violates the noise parameters set forth in Section 72.021 of this Code;
 - (8) Operate their food truck in such a way, or in such a location, that such operation: interferes with City-permitted functions; or orients the food truck's service window or other service area towards a public street or vehicular traffic; or otherwise impedes the reasonable flow of vehicular and/or pedestrian foot traffic;
 - (9) Set up or otherwise distribute, for customer use: a) any tables or auxiliary stations unless such tables or auxiliary stations are located within ten (10) feet from the food truck; or b) any chairs or apparatuses for seating regardless of their proximity to the food truck;
 - (10) Set up or display any signage, unless such display or signage is associated solely with the food truck and is located within ten (10) feet from the food truck;
 - (11) Dispose of any liquid waste or grease in tree pits or storm drains or onto the sidewalks, streets, trash cans, or other public space; or
 - (12) Cause or allow the food truck to be left unattended for any period of time.
- (B) A food truck shall not operate within the City of Dublin unless the food truck isy-are parked lawfully and fully within in a designated food truck parking zone.
- (C) Notwithstanding subsection (B), a food truck may operate, subject to the following conditions, upon:
- (1) A neighborhood street, if the food truck is lawfully parked thereon and has received written permission to operate at that location by an applicable homeowner's association, civic association, or similarly organized group of residents, or as part of a neighborhood event that has been allowed or recognized by the City Manager or the Manager's designee;
 - (2) Any non-asphalt or non-concrete surface in connection with a City-Approved Event, if directed to park and operate thereon by the organizer of the event or their designee, or if such surface is within private property;
 - (3) Private property with a residential primary use in connection with a single-day event on the property, if they have both received written permission from the property owner to operate thereon and serve only those individuals whom the property owner has invited to the event;
 - (4) Private property with a non-residential primary use, a mixed-use parcel, or a vacant commercial parcel, if they do so for no more than fourteen (14) calendar days in a month and subject to the property owner's written consent for such operation; and

- (5) A neighborhood street or neighborhood park, if and only if the food truck is an ice cream truck and such operations ~~are both safe and~~ do not impede the flow of vehicular or pedestrian foot traffic thereon.

123.05: CITY-APPROVED EVENTS

- (A) No food truck may operate within one thousand (1,000) feet of a City-Approved Event unless: a) such operation is occurring exclusively as a subset of a City-Approved event; or b) the food truck has received written consent to do so from the organization or entity holding the City-Approved Event ~~to do so~~.
- (B) A food truck may operate without a City of Dublin food truck license if such operation occurs exclusively as a subset of a City-Approved Event and if all such operations occur within the approved areas and time frames of such event.

123.06: EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL

- (A) Each food truck license is valid from the date of its issuance until the final day of February in the subsequent calendar year.
- (B) Upon the change of any information that must be submitted with a food truck application, the food truck operator shall provide to the City Manager or the Manager's designee the updated information within ten (10) business days.
- (C) No earlier than forty-five (45) days before the expiration of a food truck license issued under this Chapter, but no later than fifteen (15) days before the expiration of such license, the food truck operator may seek a renewal food truck license.
- (a) As part of the food-truck-license renewal process, the food truck operator shall:
- (1) Request such renewal in writing;
 - (2) Certify that all licenses and other information required in the initial food truck application are current and provide updated or current copies of such licenses;
 - (3) Acknowledge that any false or misleading statements in the renewal application may be sufficient cause to revoke the current food truck license and deny the renewal application; and
 - (4) Pay the applicable food truck license fee, as required by Section 123.02(B).
- (b) Applications for renewals of food truck licenses may be given expedited processing.
- (D) If the food truck operator fails to seek renewal within the timeframe specified in this Section, then the applicable food truck license will expire at the end of the one-year period set forth in this Section. The food truck operator may submit a complete food

truck application at any time after the renewal period set forth in this Section lapses; however, the food truck operator shall not operate the applicable food truck during the time between the expiration of the food truck license and the issuance of a subsequent food truck license.

- (E) The City Manager or the Manager's designee shall approve or deny a food truck license renewal application under the same conditions as the initial approval of the food truck license. Additionally, the City Manager or the Manager's designee shall deny a food truck license renewal application if the food truck operator has not previously registered, or has not properly maintained the registration of, the food truck with the City of Dublin Division of Taxation.

123.07: LICENSE TRANSFERS PROHIBITED

- (A) Any food truck licenses issued under this Chapter are non-transferrable and cannot be assigned by the licensee to any other individual or organization, or to any other food truck. No food truck operator shall transfer or attempt to transfer a food truck license issued under this Chapter under any circumstances.
- (B) If a food truck operator sells a food truck that is licensed or permitted under this Chapter while the food truck license is still in effect, the succeeding food truck operator must comply with the food truck application, inspection, and fee requirements of this Chapter before operating such food truck within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin.

123.08: ENFORCEMENT

- (A) Any code enforcement officer or police officer shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of this Chapter at any time, including but not limited to upon the receipt of a complaint.
- (B) The Washington Township Fire Department shall have the authority to inspect any food truck for any fire-related performance issue or operational deficiency. Upon the discovery of such a fire-related performance issue or operational deficiency, the Washington Township Fire Department may temporarily suspend the food truck operator's right to operate the food truck within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin until the performance issue or operational deficiency is remediated to the Washington Township Fire Department's satisfaction.

123.09: SUSPENSION; REVOCATION; APPEALS

- (A) The City Manager or the Manager's designee may revoke at any time any food truck license issued under the provisions of this Chapter for violation of any provision of this Chapter, or one or more of the following reasons:
 - (1) Fraud, misrepresentation or bribery in securing a license or during the course of business;
 - (2) Failure to display the food truck license issued under this Chapter while operating within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin;
 - (3) Failure to have valid permits or licenses required by this Chapter;
 - (4) Conviction of any criminal or traffic offense while using a food truck or conviction of any criminal offense involving theft or fraud;
 - (5) For any of the reasons which could have been grounds for refusing to issue the original license; or
 - (6) Knowingly allowing another person to use such licensed food truck in violation of any provision of this Chapter.
- (B) Any person who has applied for a food truck license in accordance with this Chapter and to whom the City Manager or the Manager's designee has, after an investigation, denied a food truck license; or any person who has had a food truck license be not renewed; or any person who has had a food truck license revoked or suspended, may appeal such determination to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- (C) Notice of an appeal shall be filed in accordance with Code § 153.231. Such appeal shall be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals at the next regular meeting, unless the food truck operator requests a later date, in accordance with Code §153.231, including all rights of appeal.

123.99: PENALTY

- (A) Whoever violates Sections 123.02, 123.076, or 123.087 of this Chapter shall be guilty of a third-degree misdemeanor.
- (B) Whoever violates any other Section of this Chapter shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor for the first offense of any respective subsection; a fourth-degree misdemeanor for a second offense of the same subsection; and a third-degree misdemeanor for third and any subsequent offense of the same subsection.
- (C) Each day on which any such activities are conducted in violation of this Chapter shall constitute a separate offense.

Chapter 123: Food Trucks

123.01: DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Chapter 123, the following words and terms have these meanings:

“City–Approved Event” means any activity or gathering or assemblage of people upon public property or in the public right-of-way for which a street closure or Community Event Permit has been issued, or other permission granted in writing, by the City of Dublin.

“Community Park” means any park designated as a community park either in the City of Dublin Parks & Recreation Master Plan or by the City Manager or the Manager’s designee.

“Designated Food Truck Parking Zone” means a public parking space, grouping of public parking spaces, or any other area that the City Manager or the Manager’s designee has designated as a lawful location upon which a food truck may operate.

“Food Truck” means any apparatus or equipment that is used to cook, prepare, and/or serve food and/or beverage, and that routinely changes or can change location and is operated from a moveable vehicle or apparatus, including but not limited to motorized vehicles trailers, and hand propelled carts.

“Food Truck Application” means the application form on which a food truck operator applies for a food truck license, submitted to the City Manager or the Manager’s designee on a form provided by the City Manager or the Manager’s designee or through an approved electronic application process.

“Food Truck License” means an official document issued by the City Manager or the Manager’s designee authorizing the operation of a food truck within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin for up to one year.

“Food Truck Operations Equipment” means the equipment that a food truck operator needs to operate their food truck, including all cooking equipment, food preparation equipment, refrigeration and/or cold-storage equipment, hot-holding and/or warming equipment, sanitation and hygiene equipment, power equipment, fuel sources, ventilation systems, fire safety and emergency equipment, service and customer-facing equipment, and storage and organization equipment, but excluding any tables or auxiliary stations that the food truck operator provides solely for customer use as permitted within this Chapter.

“Food Truck Operator” means an owner and/or operator of a food truck that operates or seeks to operate within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin subject to this Chapter.

“Ice Cream Truck” means a food truck from which frozen desserts of any kind are carried, sold, stored, and/or dispensed for purposes of retail sale, or offered for retail sale, while such food truck it is operating within the public rights of way.

“Neighborhood Park” means any park designated as a neighborhood park either in the City of Dublin Parks & Recreation Master Plan or by the City Manager or the Manager’s designee.

123.02: LICENSE OR PERMIT REQUIRED FOR OPERATION

- (A) No individual or organization shall operate, or cause to be operated, any food truck within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin without a valid food truck license and all required licenses issued in accordance with the laws and regulations established in the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, and the City of Dublin Codified Ordinances, as applicable.
- (B) The fee for a food truck license shall be as set forth from time to time by ordinance.
- (C) Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as superseding, supplanting, or otherwise replacing any duty imposed by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3701 or 3717, or rules or regulations promulgated thereunder, upon an application for a health license, or upon a department of health in the conduct of its responsibilities relative to food trucks.

123.03: FOOD TRUCK APPLICATION

- (A) Before any food truck may operate within the limits of the City of Dublin subject to Section 123.02, the food truck operator shall submit a food truck application, which shall request from the food truck operator at least the following information:
 - (1) The name, permanent address, telephone number(s), and e-mail address(es) of the food truck operator;
 - (2) The business name or DBA, permanent address, and telephone number of the food truck business if different from the food truck operator’s information;
 - (3) A copy of the food truck operator’s Mobile Food Service Operation License, issued in accordance with Chapter 3717 of the Ohio Revised Code;
 - (4) A copy of the food truck operator’s State of Ohio Transient License (if applicable);
 - (5) A copy of the food truck operator’s valid State-issued vehicle registration (if applicable);
 - (6) A copy of the food truck operator’s valid State-issued driver’s license; and
 - (7) A copy of the valid State-issued driver’s license of every current employee whom the food truck operator intends to allow to drive the food truck or operate a vehicle that transports the food truck from one place to another, excluding emergency towing.

The City Manager or the Manager’s designee may request additional information from the food truck operator through the food truck application. A food truck application submission is not considered to be complete until the food truck operator has provided,

- to the City Manager or Manager's designee's satisfaction, all information requested in the food truck application.
- (B) A food truck operator must submit a separate food truck application for each and every food truck that they intend to operate within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin.
 - (C) Within fifteen (15) business days of receiving a complete food truck application, the City Manager or the Manager's designee shall examine the food truck application and provide a written determination in response to it. During this period, the City Manager or the Manager's designee may make, or cause to be made, any further investigation into such food truck application as they deem necessary, and they may extend the review period up to an additional fifteen (15) business days as needed to complete such further investigation.
 - (D) The City Manager or the Manager's designee shall provide a written determination in response to each complete food truck application submission. If a complete food truck application is denied, then the reasons for such denial will be provided to the food truck operator in writing. If a complete food truck application is approved, then the food truck operator shall register the food truck with the City of Dublin Division of Taxation before beginning operations under the license.

123.04: OPERATIONS

- (A) Within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin, food truck operators shall not:
 - (1) Fail to display on or within the food truck the licensure mark issued under this Chapter;
 - (2) Fail to ensure that all food truck operations equipment is contained within or on the food truck, including while operating the food truck;
 - (3) Use speakers or audio amplification for any purpose, unless the food truck operator is operating an ice cream truck and such amplified sound falls within the noise/sound amplification parameters set forth in Section 72.021 of this Code;
 - (4) Be open for business or otherwise operate, on any given day, before 7:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m., unless permitted to operate outside of these hours as part of a City-Approved Event;
 - (5) On any given day, park their food truck upon public property or parking space(s) between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m., unless permitted to do so as part of a City-Approved Event;
 - (6) Tap into or otherwise use a power or water source belonging to the City of Dublin, any private party, or any other business to operate their food truck, unless the food truck operator has obtained the written consent of the party responsible for such power or water source;

- (7) Use an independent fuel source that produces or disperses noxious smoke or fumes, or an engine or generator power source that produces unreasonable noise, such that it violates the noise parameters set forth in Section 72.021 of this Code;
 - (8) Operate their food truck in such a way, or in such a location, that such operation: interferes with City-permitted functions; or orients the food truck's service window or other service area towards a public street or vehicular traffic; or otherwise impedes the reasonable flow of vehicular and/or pedestrian foot traffic;
 - (9) Set up or otherwise distribute, for customer use: a) any tables or auxiliary stations unless such tables or auxiliary stations are located within ten (10) feet from the food truck; or b) any chairs or apparatuses for seating regardless of their proximity to the food truck;
 - (10) Set up or display any signage, unless such display or signage is associated solely with the food truck and is located within ten (10) feet from the food truck;
 - (11) Dispose of any liquid waste or grease in tree pits or storm drains or onto the sidewalks, streets, trash cans, or other public space; or
 - (12) Cause or allow the food truck to be left unattended for any period of time.
- (B) A food truck shall not operate within the City of Dublin unless the food truck is parked lawfully and fully within in a designated food truck parking zone.
- (C) Notwithstanding subsection (B), a food truck may operate, subject to the following conditions, upon:
- (1) A neighborhood street, if the food truck is lawfully parked thereon and has received written permission to operate at that location by an applicable homeowner's association, civic association, or similarly organized group of residents, or as part of a neighborhood event that has been allowed or recognized by the City Manager or the Manager's designee;
 - (2) Any surface in connection with a City-Approved Event, if directed to park and operate thereon by the organizer of the event or their designee;
 - (3) Private property with a residential primary use in connection with a single-day event on the property, if they have both received written permission from the property owner to operate thereon and serve only those individuals whom the property owner has invited to the event;
 - (4) Private property with a non-residential primary use, a mixed-use parcel, or a vacant commercial parcel, if they do so for no more than fourteen (14) calendar days in a month and subject to the property owner's written consent for such operation; and
 - (5) A neighborhood street or neighborhood park, if and only if the food truck is an ice cream truck and such operations do not impede the flow of vehicular or pedestrian foot traffic thereon.

123.05: CITY–APPROVED EVENTS

- (A) No food truck may operate within one thousand (1,000) feet of a City–Approved Event unless: a) such operation is occurring exclusively as a subset of a City-Approved event; or b) the food truck has received written consent to do so from the organization or entity holding the City–Approved Event.
- (B) A food truck may operate without a City of Dublin food truck license if such operation occurs exclusively as a subset of a City–Approved Event and if all such operations occur within the approved areas and time frames of such event.

123.06: EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL

- (A) Each food truck license is valid from the date of its issuance until the final day of February in the subsequent calendar year.
- (B) Upon the change of any information that must be submitted with a food truck application, the food truck operator shall provide to the City Manager or the Manager’s designee the updated information within ten (10) business days.
- (C) No earlier than forty-five (45) days before the expiration of a food truck license issued under this Chapter, but no later than fifteen (15) days before the expiration of such license, the food truck operator may seek a renewal food truck license.
 - (a) As part of the food-truck-license renewal process, the food truck operator shall:
 - (1) Request such renewal in writing;
 - (2) Certify that all licenses and other information required in the initial food truck application are current and provide updated or current copies of such licenses;
 - (3) Acknowledge that any false or misleading statements in the renewal application may be sufficient cause to revoke the current food truck license and deny the renewal application; and
 - (4) Pay the applicable food truck license fee, as required by Section 123.02(B).
 - (b) Applications for renewals of food truck licenses may be given expedited processing.
- (D) If the food truck operator fails to seek renewal within the timeframe specified in this Section, then the applicable food truck license will expire at the end of the period set forth in this Section. The food truck operator may submit a complete food truck application at any time after the renewal period set forth in this Section lapses; however, the food truck operator shall not operate the applicable food truck during the time between the expiration of the food truck license and the issuance of a subsequent food truck license.

- (E) The City Manager or the Manager's designee shall approve or deny a food truck license renewal application under the same conditions as the initial approval of the food truck license. Additionally, the City Manager or the Manager's designee shall deny a food truck license renewal application if the food truck operator has not previously registered, or has not properly maintained the registration of, the food truck with the City of Dublin Division of Taxation.

123.07: LICENSE TRANSFERS PROHIBITED

- (A) Any food truck license issued under this Chapter is non-transferrable and cannot be assigned by the licensee to any other individual or organization, or to any other food truck. No food truck operator shall transfer or attempt to transfer a food truck license issued under this Chapter under any circumstances.
- (B) If a food truck operator sells a food truck that is licensed or permitted under this Chapter while the food truck license is still in effect, the succeeding food truck operator must comply with the food truck application, inspection, and fee requirements of this Chapter before operating such food truck within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin.

123.08: ENFORCEMENT

- (A) Any code enforcement officer or police officer shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of this Chapter at any time, including but not limited to upon the receipt of a complaint.
- (B) The Washington Township Fire Department shall have the authority to inspect any food truck for any fire-related performance issue or operational deficiency. Upon the discovery of such a fire-related performance issue or operational deficiency, the Washington Township Fire Department may temporarily suspend the food truck operator's right to operate the food truck within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin until the performance issue or operational deficiency is remediated to the Washington Township Fire Department's satisfaction.

123.09: SUSPENSION; REVOCATION; APPEALS

- (A) The City Manager or the Manager's designee may revoke at any time any food truck license issued under the provisions of this Chapter for violation of any provision of this Chapter, or one or more of the following reasons:
 - (1) Fraud, misrepresentation or bribery in securing a license or during the course of business;
 - (2) Failure to display the food truck license issued under this Chapter while operating within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin;
 - (3) Failure to have valid permits or licenses required by this Chapter;
 - (4) Conviction of any criminal or traffic offense while using a food truck or conviction of any criminal offense involving theft or fraud;
 - (5) For any of the reasons which could have been grounds for refusing to issue the original license; or
 - (6) Knowingly allowing another person to use such licensed food truck in violation of any provision of this Chapter.
- (B) Any person who has applied for a food truck license in accordance with this Chapter and to whom the City Manager or the Manager's designee has, after an investigation, denied a food truck license; or any person who has had a food truck license be not renewed; or any person who has had a food truck license revoked or suspended, may appeal such determination to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- (C) Notice of an appeal shall be filed in accordance with Code § 153.231. Such appeal shall be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals at the next regular meeting, unless the food truck operator requests a later date, in accordance with Code §153.231, including all rights of appeal.

123.99: PENALTY

- (A) Whoever violates Sections 123.02, 123.06, or 123.07 of this Chapter shall be guilty of a third-degree misdemeanor.
- (B) Whoever violates any other Section of this Chapter shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor for the first offense of any respective subsection; a fourth-degree misdemeanor for a second offense of the same subsection; and a third-degree misdemeanor for third and any subsequent offense of the same subsection.
- (C) Each day on which any such activities are conducted in violation of this Chapter shall constitute a separate offense.

§ 153.002 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning, as determined by the Director.

(A) *Uses definitions.*

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(6) *Uses definitions - F*

(a) ***FAMILY.*** A family consists of any person living alone or any of the following groups living together as a single housekeeping unit that shares common living, sleeping, cooking, and eating facilities: (1) any number of people related by blood, marriage, adoption, guardianship, or other duly and legally authorized custodial relationship and no more than two unrelated individuals who provide care or assistance or are domestic employees, (2) two unrelated individuals and their children related to either of them and their foster children, or (3) four unrelated individuals. A family does not include any society; club; boarding or lodging house; fraternity; sorority; or group of individuals whose association is seasonal or similar in nature to a resort, motel, hotel, boarding or lodging house, nor that is institutional in nature.

(b) ***FARMERS MARKET.*** An area, which may or may not be in a completely enclosed building, where on designated days and times, growers and producers of horticultural and agricultural products may sell those products and/or other incidental items directly to the public.

(c) ~~***FOOD TRUCK.*** A mobile food and beverage unit which is temporarily stored on a privately owned lot where food items are sold to the general public. May be motorized or unmotorized. Food truck includes food vehicle, food trailer, food cart, and temporary commercial structures designed for the sale of food and beverages accessory to the primary structure/use.~~

~~—(d)—~~***FUELING/SERVICE STATION.*** A facility used primarily for the sale of vehicle fuels, oils or accessories. Services may include maintenance and lubrication of automobiles and replacement or installation of minor parts and accessories but shall not include major repair work such as engine or transmission replacement, body and fender repair or spray painting. This use may include the retail sales of convenience goods.

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§ 153.172 USES.

* * *

(C) *Use specific standards.*

* * *

(4) *Accessory and temporary uses.*

* * *

(f) ~~[Repealed]~~ *Food trucks.*

~~1. Each food truck shall maintain all valid licenses required by the city, county or state for operation of a business including but not limited to all applicable licenses for a food service business.~~

~~2. Each food truck intended to be moved by a motorized vehicle shall maintain a valid registration within the most recent 12 month period.~~

~~3. For property with a residential primary use, food trucks may operate on a property for no more than six hours per calendar month, and in no case may be stored on a property outside an enclosed structure. No food truck shall operate before 8:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m.~~

~~4. For a property with a non-residential primary use, mixed use, or a vacant commercial parcel, may not operate on a property for more than 14 calendar days per month, and no food truck shall operate before 6:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m.~~

~~5. Food trucks located within the right of way shall be subject to the City of Dublin Police regulations and enforcement.~~

~~6. Each food truck shall provide a trash receptacle near the food truck, shall prevent the accumulation of litter or containers from the food truck within 50 feet of the food truck, and shall remove and empty the trash receptacle in a permitted location when the food truck ends sales for the day.~~

~~7. Food trucks shall not impede safe site circulation, as determined by the City Engineer.~~

~~8. Food trucks shall not use speakers or audio amplification. All associated equipment shall be contained within or on the food truck.~~

* * *

To: Members of Dublin City Council

From: Megan D. O'Callaghan, City Manager

Date: May 5, 2026

Initiated By: Jennifer Rauch, AICP, Director of Community Planning & Development
Jean-Ellen Willis, P.E., Director of Transportation & Mobility
Alison LeRoy, Director of Community Events
Kendel L. Blake, Assistant to the City Manager
Lori Gischel, Events Administrator
Jeffrey Jiang, Performance Management Analyst
Anthony Severyn, Assistant Law Director

Re: Food Truck Regulations – Public Services Committee Recommendations

Background

Food trucks in Dublin currently operate primarily through City-sponsored and community events, within the Historic District (subject to zoning requirements), in designated on-street locations, and on private property. Regulatory oversight is limited.

The Zoning Code addresses food truck operations only within the Historic District, with provisions related to hours of operation, noise, signage, circulation, and waste management. Outside of the Historic District, food truck activity remains largely unregulated. Relevant Zoning Code sections (153.002, 153.172, and 96.24) are included for reference.

The City does not currently offer a permitting process for independent food truck operations in parks, where commercial activity is prohibited without a permit. While this restricts activity, the Community Events Roadmap identifies food trucks as a strategic opportunity to enhance community events and visitor experiences when appropriately managed.

On September 8, 2025, City Council referred the Food Truck Policy to the Public Services Committee (Committee). On October 8, 2025, staff provided an overview of the background related to food trucks, current permitted uses, benchmarking of other municipalities requirements, and regulations to consider. At the October 8 Public Services Committee meeting, Committee members provided feedback and regarding potential future regulation of food trucks.

As part of the October 8 discussion, Committee members asked staff to prepare a map identifying all potential locations where food trucks could operate outside of the required twenty-five-foot (25 ft) radial separation from the primary entrance of brick-and-mortar food and beverage establishments. This proposed radius was intended to serve primarily as a buffer between brick-and-mortar food and beverage establishments and food trucks.

In response, staff developed comprehensive draft code to establish a clear regulatory framework for food truck operations. The draft code is intended to balance support for brick-and-mortar businesses with the goal of enhancing vibrancy citywide. The draft code establishes a clear licensing process for food truck operations and generally aligns Dublin's standards with those of neighboring communities' codified ordinances and policies.

On April 15, the Committee reviewed the proposed draft code amendments, evaluated the practicality of the initial 25-foot-radius request, and provided substantive feedback. Among other feedback, the Committee ultimately advised that the most effective approach would be to clearly identify where food truck operators would be permitted, rather than where they are prohibited. The Committee expressed a preference for a designated-corridor model that prioritizes minimizing competition with restaurants, ensuring safety, and supporting a positive user experience. The Commission requested staff to identify locations within the City that meet these criteria and to return with revised draft code language and proposed locations for full Council review.

Summary

In response to the Committee's feedback, staff refined a series of code amendments intended to modernize, clarify, and consolidate regulations governing food truck operations within the City's corporate limits. Specifically, the draft would repeal the two zoning-code-specific sections dealing with food trucks: 1) Section 153.002(A)(6)(c), which defined food trucks; and 2) Section 153.172(C)(3)(f), which regulated their operations within Historic Dublin. These provisions are outdated and fragmented, contributing to confusion for operators and challenges in consistent enforcement, especially outside of this limited area.

To address these issues and in response to the Committee's feedback, staff members drafted a proposed Chapter 123 within the City Code, which is dedicated exclusively to food truck regulations and operations. Establishing a standalone chapter will consolidate all existing and future food truck requirements into a single, cohesive section of the Code, improving clarity and usability for operators. Chapter 123 will include standardized definitions; establish a clear license requirement for food truck operators; and codify procedural regulations governing application submittals, license renewals, operational standards and special event participation.

After evaluating existing state- and county-level food truck licensing requirements, staff are proposing a pilot program running from Council adoption through March 1, 2027. This timeline aligns with the county's license renewal process. During the pilot period, staff will focus on education while also evaluating compliance, designated corridor locations, and the location registration process, as well as operational impacts such as traffic, parking, and site activity. Staff will also assess community feedback, economic impacts to surrounding businesses, administrative effectiveness, and overall program performance to inform any future operational changes. No license fee will be charged during the pilot period, and a future fee will be determined through the City's cost study. However, the operational restrictions and guidelines set forth in the proposed Chapter 123 would be enforceable upon the ordinance's effective date.

For Council's awareness, staff is concurrently advancing implementation of the Downtown Dublin Curbside Management Plan, which includes the introduction of two-hour parking restrictions throughout the Bridge Street District. This change is anticipated to occur in the near term and is relevant as food trucks are proposed to be permitted in two designated locations within the District. Staff will provide an update to Council on the implementation of the Curbside Management Plan at an upcoming Council meeting and will continue to evaluate how these parking modifications affect food truck operations throughout the pilot program.

The draft code is intended to improve transparency, consistency, and efficiency in the administration of food truck operations citywide, consistent with the Downtown Dublin Curbside Management Plan's recommendation to establish clear guidelines.

Additional Considerations

Visit Dublin Board and Hospitality Industry

Staff engaged Visit Dublin to solicit their feedback on the draft code, which was discussed at the April 8 Visit Dublin Board meeting. Feedback from the Board and the local hospitality industry reflects general support for food trucks as a way to enhance community vibrancy and visitor experience when implemented thoughtfully. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of a balanced, event-focused approach, recommending that food trucks be primarily limited to permitted events or carefully designated areas. Concerns were raised regarding potential impacts on brick-and-mortar businesses, particularly in high-traffic corridors such as Riverside Drive and High Street, citing issues such as safety, congestion, parking, and direct competition. Overall, the feedback supports establishing clear regulations and standards while prioritizing fairness, public safety, and the long-term economic health of Dublin's existing business community. See attached memo from the Visit Dublin Board of Directors.

Staff shares these concerns, particularly as they relate to safety.

Sports Complexes – Partner Organizations

The City of Dublin has identified three primary sports complexes in its Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Darree Fields, Avery Park, and Emerald Fields. Two of these sites currently maintain partnerships with youth organizations that operate on-site concession services. While these agreements do not include non-compete provisions, concession revenue represents a meaningful funding source for these organizations.

Staff has received feedback from these partners in the past regarding the presence of food trucks at park facilities and is raising this as a concern. Committee members noted that concession offerings are limited and, at times, unable to meet the volume of demand, and recommend permitting food trucks to operate in designated locations within these sports complexes.

Zencity Food Truck Sentiment

From a recent report pulled from Zencity, the community sentiment over the past six months regarding food trucks in Dublin has remained overwhelmingly positive, with 69% of interactions expressing favorable views and virtually no negative sentiment identified. Public conversation generated steady engagement, largely driven by social media platforms, and showed no emerging concerns related to regulation, safety or competition.

Feedback continues to frame food trucks as a valued community amenity, most often associated with events, local business support and quality-of-life enhancements. Recurring programs such as Food Truck Wednesdays and seasonal events generate strong anticipation and participation, reinforcing food trucks as an established and welcome part of Dublin's community experience. While discussions of zoning or restaurant competition have not surfaced organically, the data suggests an opportunity for the City to proactively guide future operations through clear and balanced regulations that preserve community benefits while ensuring compatibility with surrounding uses.

Education Plan

As part of the implementation of the new food truck regulations, staff will develop a clear and accessible education strategy to communicate expectations for safe and compliant operations. The goal is to ensure food truck operators, property owners and the public understand where and when food trucks are permitted, along with key operational requirements.

A dedicated webpage will serve as the central resource, featuring the code language in plain terms, designated food truck parking zones with preregistration, restricted areas and dates, and step-by-step guidance on applications, licensing and renewals. User-friendly graphics and quick-reference materials will help simplify the information. Staff will also coordinate with the Central Ohio Food Truck Association to help share updates directly with operators and broaden outreach.

Next Steps

If City Council is supportive of the draft code amendments after incorporating any feedback, staff will bring forward an ordinance for Council's consideration to formally amend the City Code.

In addition, staff will continue to engage with partners across the Central Ohio region to remain aligned on emerging best practices. This regional coordination will help ensure that Dublin is consistent with the approaches being implemented in neighboring communities, supporting a cohesive and informed framework for food truck regulations.

Recommendation

Staff requests feedback from City Council on the following items:

1. Does City Council support the draft code?
2. Does City Council support food trucks openly operating in City community and athletic parks?
3. Are there any additional elements City Council would like to see incorporated into the draft code or education plan?
4. Does City Council have additional locations they would like to see designated as food truck parking zones?

§ 96.24 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES.

(A) No person in a park shall sell or offer for sale any article, privilege or service without having first obtained a permit from the City Manager or designee.

(B) No person in a park shall beg, peddle or solicit for money, a privilege or a service.

('80 Code, § 951.12) (Ord. 39-89, passed 6-5-89; Am. Ord. 20-13, passed 3-25-13) Penalty, see § 96.99

(c) **EDUCATIONAL FACILITY.** A facility offering classes, training courses, or skill development to the public, employees or to members of an organization. This use includes but is not limited to vocational, business, or technical schools, training centers, colleges, and universities, but does not include an elementary, middle, or high school.

(d) **ELEMENTARY OR MIDDLE SCHOOL.** A facility providing education to students in kindergarten through eighth grades using a curriculum recognized by the State of Ohio, and including related assembly, sports, and activity areas, but not including facilities regularly used for housing or sleeping of students.

(e) **ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION, INDOOR.** A facility or area providing opportunities for physical exercise, physical training or improvement of health for the general public or members of an organization. This use includes but is not limited to: theaters, bowling alleys, dance halls, game centers, gymnasiums, health clubs, exercise and fitness facilities, and climbing wall centers.

(f) **ESSENTIAL UTILITY SERVICES.** Facilities used to provide utility services to a building or property, including but not limited to water pipes, sewer pipes, electric lines and boxes, telecommunication lines or fiber optic equipment, gas regulator stations, and storm drainage pipes. This use does not include major utilities such as water or sewer treatment plants, electric generating plants, and other facilities that are primary rather than accessory uses of the sites on which they are located. Wireless communication facilities are also not included in this definition.

(g) **EXERCISE AND FITNESS.** A facility or area providing opportunities for exercise or fitness for the general public or members of an organization, including but not limited to health or exercise rooms and swimming pools, when accessory to a principal use of the property.

(6) *Uses definitions - F*

(a) **FAMILY.** A family consists of any person living alone or any of the following groups living together as a single housekeeping unit that shares common living, sleeping, cooking, and eating facilities: (1) any number of people related by blood, marriage, adoption, guardianship, or other duly and legally authorized custodial relationship and no more than two unrelated individuals who provide care or assistance or are domestic employees, (2) two unrelated individuals and their children related to either of them and their foster children, or (3) four unrelated individuals. A family does not include any society; club; boarding or lodging house; fraternity; sorority; or group of individuals whose association is seasonal or similar in nature to a resort, motel, hotel, boarding or lodging house, nor that is institutional in nature.

(b) **FARMERS MARKET.** An area, which may or may not be in a completely enclosed building, where on designated days and times, growers and producers of horticultural and agricultural products may sell those products and/or other incidental items directly to the public.

(c) **FOOD TRUCK.** A mobile food and beverage unit which is temporarily stored on a privately-owned lot where food items are sold to the general public. May be motorized or unmotorized. Food truck includes food vehicle, food trailer, food cart, and temporary commercial structures designed for the sale of food and beverages accessory to the primary structure/use.

(d) **FUELING/SERVICE STATION.** A facility used primarily for the sale of vehicle fuels, oils or accessories. Services may include maintenance and lubrication of automobiles and replacement or installation of minor parts and accessories but shall not include major repair work such as engine or transmission replacement, body and fender repair or spray painting. This use may include the retail sales of convenience goods.

(7) *Uses definitions - G*

(a) **GOVERNMENT SERVICES.**

1. **GENERAL.** A facility providing the administration of local, state, or federal government services or functions.

2. **SAFETY.** A facility providing police, fire, or emergency medical services to the surrounding community.

2. An accessory dwelling unit shall be limited to no more than 800 square feet of gross floor area.

3. When accessory to a single-family dwelling, the accessory dwelling unit may be located either within the single-family dwelling structure or in a permitted accessory structure.

4. When accessory to a single-family dwelling, the accessory dwelling unit shall have a separate entrance from the principal dwelling unit, and that entrance shall not face the front lot line and shall not be located on the same building façade as the principal building entrance closest to the street.

5. The owner of the dwelling must occupy either the principal dwelling unit or the permitted accessory dwelling unit.

6. Ownership of the accessory dwelling unit may not be separate from the ownership of the principal dwelling unit.

(e) *Dwelling administration, rental, or sales office.* These uses shall comply with the provisions of §153.073(B) and setbacks applicable to principal structures on the property.

(f) *Food trucks.*

1. Each food truck shall maintain all valid licenses required by the city, county or state for operation of a business including but not limited to all applicable licenses for a food service business.

2. Each food truck intended to be moved by a motorized vehicle shall maintain a valid registration within the most recent 12-month period.

3. For property with a residential primary use, food trucks may operate on a property for no more than six hours per calendar month, and in no case may be stored on a property outside an enclosed structure. No food truck shall operate before 8:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m.

4. For a property with a non-residential primary use, mixed-use, or a vacant commercial parcel, may not operate on a property for more than 14 calendar days per month, and no food truck shall operate before 6:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m.

5. Food trucks located within the right-of-way shall be subject to the City of Dublin Police regulations and enforcement.

6. Each food truck shall provide a trash receptacle near the food truck, shall prevent the accumulation of litter or containers from the food truck within 50 feet of the food truck, and shall remove and empty the trash receptacle in a permitted location when the food truck ends sales for the day.

7. Food trucks shall not impede safe site circulation, as determined by the City Engineer.

8. Food trucks shall not use speakers or audio amplification. All associated equipment shall be contained within or on the food truck.

(g) *Home occupations.* All home occupations in the Historic Districts shall comply with the provisions of §153.073.

(h) *Outdoor dining and seating.*

1. Outdoor dining and seating areas, furniture, and enclosures shall be set back at least five feet from the curb and at least five feet from all street trees and street furniture. In no case shall these amenities be placed in a manner that would provide less than six feet of clear area for pedestrian use.

2. The use of outdoor speakers shall comply with the provisions of §132.03(A)(6) of the Dublin City Code.

3. Advertising is not permitted on dining furniture, accessories, or other similar amenities.

4. Dining furniture shall be of the same design, material and color for all furniture associated with the use. When not in regular use, outdoor furniture shall be stored in a location that is not visible to the public, unless the patio furniture is all-weather material, set up for use and not covered in any way, and weather conditions make the use of furniture possible.

5. Any speaker emitting music or sound shall be oriented to direct the sound away from all surrounding resources, parks, and open spaces.

6. Any speaker emitting music or sound shall not operate between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., unless otherwise approved by the Architectural Review Board.

(i) *Outdoor display or seasonal sales.*

1. Outdoor seasonal plant display shall comply with the provisions of §153.099.

2. Outdoor sale of merchandise is permitted, and shall comply with the provisions of §153.099. Merchandise shall only be displayed during the hours of operation for the principal use. No permit is required.

3. Outdoor sales of Christmas trees and pumpkins shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 116 of the Dublin City Code.

(j) *Renewable energy equipment.*

1. For regulations pertaining to renewable energy equipment - solar refer to §153.074, Accessory Uses and Structures.



Memorandum

To: Megan O'Callaghan, City of Dublin
From: Scott Dring, Visit Dublin
CC: Visit Dublin Board of Directors
Date: April 9, 2026
Re: Food Truck Input, Recommendations

On behalf of Visit Dublin's Board of Directors and Dublin's hospitality industry, we thank the City of Dublin for the opportunity to provide feedback on the benefits and use of food trucks in the Dublin community.

Visit Dublin gathered input from restaurants citywide, with emphasis on Downtown Dublin, as well as from its Board of Directors. This feedback underscores support for food trucks that enhance visitor and resident experiences when managed thoughtfully and without harming the local business community.

The Board of Directors recommends a balanced, event-focused approach to food truck usage that supports community vibrancy while protecting existing brick-and-mortar businesses. The Board supports the City's efforts to establish clear licensing, safety, and operating standards, and generally agrees that food trucks are most appropriate in conjunction with permitted events or in designated, thoughtfully selected areas.

Strong consideration should be given to restricting food truck placement along high-traffic and high-impact corridors such as High Street and Riverside Drive due to safety, congestion, parking limitations, and direct business competition, and to ensure trucks are not located near existing businesses.

Feedback from industry partners emphasized that food trucks should not harm local businesses, which generate significant income taxes, bed taxes, broader economic impact, and community pride far beyond the minimal fees paid by food trucks. Additionally, the Board encourages exploration of partnership incentives that allow local businesses to benefit from food truck collaboration.

Overall, the recommendation reflects a supportive but structured approach that prioritizes fairness, public safety, and the long-term economic health of Dublin's business community.

Thank you for dedicating time and resources to this important issue, and for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Visit Dublin Ohio – Board Meeting Minutes

Food Truck Discussion

April 8, 2026

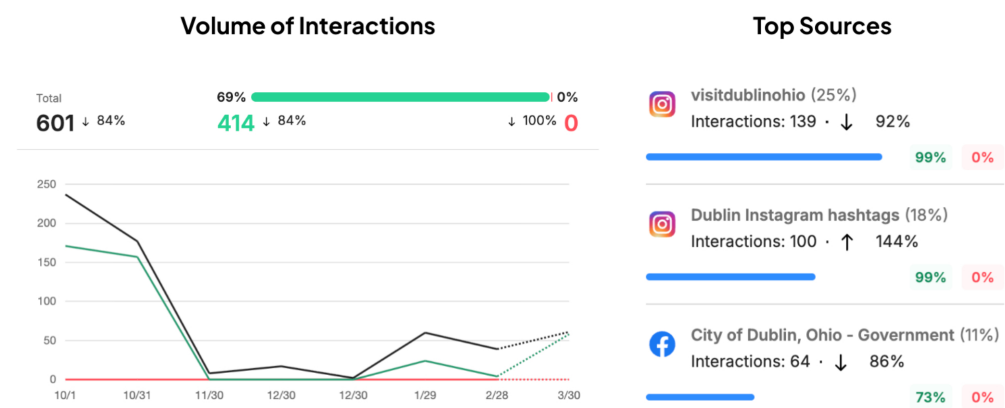
- [11:52-12:51] **A new discussion on food truck policy is introduced.**
- The City of Dublin has requested input on a food truck policy.
- Scott and Lindsay will lead a discussion to gather high-level feedback and direction from the board on Visit Dublin's official position regarding food trucks. The discussion will not focus on operational details like fees or proximity rules.
- [12:51-15:42] **Lindsay outlines the city's proposed regulatory framework for food trucks.**
- The city is developing a policy to balance the vibrancy food trucks can offer with the interests of existing restaurants and businesses.
- The proposed amendments will establish a new comprehensive regulatory framework. Key components include:
 - **Licensing:** Requiring an annual food truck license, with a separate application for each truck. Licenses would be renewed each February.
 - **Operating Standards:** Rules for hours of operation and a prohibition on leaving trucks unattended or overnight.
 - **Location & Parking:** Trucks would not be allowed to park directly in front of restaurants without permission, on sidewalks, near intersections, or blocking access. Use of streets and parks would be limited unless part of an approved event.
 - **Enforcement:** The policy will define violations and enforcement procedures.
- The policy aims to establish clear rules, support fair competition, enhance public safety, and ensure flexibility.
- [15:42-18:34] **Scott presents feedback on food trucks gathered from local restaurant partners.**
- **General Consensus:** Restaurant owners are not against food trucks but believe there is a right time and place for them, such as at city-organized events like Food Truck Wednesdays at Coffman Park.
- **Key Concerns from Restaurants:**
 - **Economic Disparity:** Restaurants are local businesses paying income tax and bed tax, contributing significantly to the local economy, whereas food trucks pay a small fee and have less of a lasting economic footprint.
 - **Location Restrictions:** Restaurant partners are universally against allowing food trucks on Riverside Drive and High Street due to safety concerns (e.g., children near fast-moving traffic), parking and traffic congestion, and direct competition.
 - **Parking:** Food trucks take up valuable parking spots.
- It was clarified that this feedback represents the views of restaurant partners, not the official opinion of Visit Dublin.

- [18:34-23:16] **Board members and staff discuss specific concerns and considerations for the food truck policy.**
- **High-Concern Areas:** There is agreement that High Street and Riverside Drive are major points of concern for downtown businesses regarding food truck placement, particularly due to parking and competition.
- **Event-Specific Use:** Food trucks are seen as beneficial for permitted events to supplement restaurants, but the event organizer bears the burden of managing traffic, safety, and trash.
- **Logistical Issues:** The noise and fumes from generators were raised as a negative impact to consider.
- **Regulation of Food Type:** Lindsay stated that regulating the type of food trucks (e.g., preventing multiple coffee trucks) has not been part of the discussion to date but could be raised with city staff.
- **Licensing Clarification:** A food truck would need one annual license to operate anywhere in the city for various events; individual event organizers would not need to secure separate licenses for the trucks they host.
- **Revenue Share:** The only revenue for the city would be from the permit fee; there is no proposed revenue-sharing model. However, it was noted that some community organizations (e.g., sports teams) have arrangements where they receive a percentage of sales from food trucks at their events.
- **Health & Safety:** It was confirmed that health department requirements would be part of the licensing process.
- **Overall Sentiment:** No one present expressed being "anti-food-truck."
- [23:20-25:09] **Discussion concluded on food truck placement regulations, proposing a framework for approved and disallowed areas.**
- A key consideration for food truck placement is ensuring they are not situated directly in front of an existing business, especially on a neighboring parcel.
- Locating food trucks in Bridge Park was deemed largely unfeasible.
- The suggestion to not allowing food trucks to park on Riverside Drive was noted as a valuable point for further consideration.
- The impact of food trucks taking up parking spaces was also acknowledged as a significant factor.
- A proposed regulatory model would involve defining areas where food trucks are explicitly not allowed, with all other areas being implicitly approved by default. Another is to create a list of "encouraged" areas.
- Action Item: @[Scott] - Create a one-to-two-page memo summarizing the food truck discussion for Megan and Lindsay.
- [25:18-26:42] **The team explored potential incentives for brick-and-mortar businesses to partner with food trucks and clarified rules for private events.**
- The idea of offering incentives to local businesses to host food trucks was raised as a way to help them provide outside service.
- The team will take back the idea of exploring what incentives could be offered to brick-and-mortar businesses to encourage them to branch out with food trucks.
- Regarding private events in residential areas:

- If a food truck is on a public street for an event (e.g., a party), it would fall under the proposed city regulations.
- If a food truck is in a private space, such as a backyard or a business's private parking lot, it is understood that it would not be under the city's purview.

Food Trucks in Dublin: Over the past six months seasonal patterns have not changed, with no emerging friction or regulatory concerns

Oct 1, 2025 - Mar 31, 2026



Over the past six months (Oct 1, 2025 - Mar 31, 2026), posts and comments referencing food trucks in Dublin generated **601 interactions**, bringing the total since Oct 1, 2024 to **5.7K interactions**.

Sentiment remained overwhelmingly positive (69% positive, less than 1% negative), consistent with [prior findings](#).

Unofficial channels continued to drive the majority of engagement (72%), led by posts from **Visit Dublin Instagram** (25%) and **Dublin Instagram hashtags** (18%).

The three themes identified in the original Insight held across the period without meaningful change.

- **Food trucks as community events:** Food Truck Wednesdays at Coffman Park remained the primary anchor of discourse, appearing consistently in seasonal event roundups alongside fall festivals, Halloween programming, and holiday markets. The **Pakistani Independence Day Mela** and the **spring return post in late March** ("Your mid-week lunch plans are back!") generated the highest official-channel engagement of the period, confirming a **seasonal rhythm that drives genuine community anticipation**.

- **Food trucks as small business partners:** A Chamber of Commerce Lunch Bunch featuring Dos Hermanos Taco Truck continued the pattern of food trucks embedded in professional and civic contexts. A new dimension emerged in February, when North Market Bridge Park's **Black History Month spotlight on five Black-owned food businesses** extended the small business framing into **equity and local representation**.
- **Food trucks as amenities:** The spring return announcement reinforced quality-of-life associations, with residents responding warmly to the lunchtime accessibility framing that characterized the prior year's discourse.

In summary, across the past six months, **Dublin's food truck conversation remained celebratory, event-driven, and free of regulatory or competitive concerns**, a complete confirmation of the original findings. **Permits, zoning, and restaurant competition have yet to surface organically**. As the City moves toward policy development, it continues to enter that conversation from a position of strong community goodwill.



Published by Sam Safford 4/14 2:20 pm

Food Trucks Code Amendment

Proposed Chapter 123: Food Trucks

123.01: DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Chapter 123, the following words and terms have these meanings:

“City–Approved Event” means any activity or gathering or assemblage of people upon public property or in the public right-of-way for which a street closure or Community Event Permit has been issued, or other permission granted in writing, by the City of Dublin.

“Community Park” means any park designated as a community park either in the City of Dublin Parks & Recreation Master Plan or by the City Manager or the Manager’s designee.

“Designated Food Truck Parking Zone” means a public parking space, grouping of public parking spaces, or any other area that the City Manager or the Manager’s designee has designated as a lawful location upon which a food truck may operate.

“Food Truck” means any apparatus or equipment that is used to cook, prepare, and/or serve food and/or beverage, and that routinely changes or can change location and is operated from a moveable vehicle or apparatus, including but not limited to motorized vehicles trailers, and hand propelled carts.

“Food Truck Application” means the application form on which a food truck operator applies for a food truck license, submitted to the City Manager or the Manager’s designee on a form provided by the City Manager or the Manager’s designee or through an approved electronic application process.

“Food Truck License” means an official document issued by the City Manager or the Manager’s designee authorizing the operation of a food truck within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin for up to one year.

“Food Truck Operations Equipment” means the equipment that a food truck operator needs to operate their food truck, including all cooking equipment, food preparation equipment, refrigeration and/or cold-storage equipment, hot-holding and/or warming equipment, sanitation and hygiene equipment, power equipment, fuel sources, ventilation systems, fire safety and emergency equipment, service and customer-facing equipment, and storage and organization equipment, but excluding any tables or auxiliary stations that the food truck operator provides solely for customer use as permitted within this Chapter.

“Food Truck Operator” means an owner and/or operator of a food truck that operates or seeks to operate within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin subject to this Chapter.

“Ice Cream Truck” means a food truck from which frozen desserts of any kind are carried, sold, stored, and/or dispensed for purposes of retail sale, or offered for retail sale, while such food truck it is operating within the public rights of way.

“Neighborhood Park” means any park designated as a neighborhood park either in the City of Dublin Parks & Recreation Master Plan or by the City Manager or the Manager’s designee.

123.02: LICENSE OR PERMIT REQUIRED FOR OPERATION

- (A) No individual or organization shall operate or cause to be operated any food truck within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin without a valid food truck license and all required licenses issued in accordance with the laws and regulations established in the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, and the City of Dublin Codified Ordinances, as applicable.
- (B) The fee for a food truck license shall be as set forth from time to time by ordinance.
- (C) Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as superseding, supplanting, or otherwise replacing any duty imposed by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3701 or 3717, or rules or regulations promulgated thereunder, upon an application for a health license, or upon a department of health in the conduct of its responsibilities relative to food trucks.

123.03: FOOD TRUCK APPLICATION

- (A) Before any food truck may operate within the limits of the City of Dublin subject to Section 123.02, the food truck operator shall submit a food truck application, which shall request from the food truck operator at least the following information:
 - (1) The name, permanent address, telephone number(s), and e-mail address(es) of the food truck operator;
 - (2) The business name or DBA, permanent address, and telephone number of the food truck business if different from the food truck operator’s information;
 - (3) A copy of the food truck operator’s Mobile Food Service Operation License, issued in accordance with Chapter 3717 of the Ohio Revised Code;
 - (4) A copy of the food truck operator’s State of Ohio Transient License (if applicable);
 - (5) A copy of the food truck operator’s valid State-issued vehicle registration (if applicable);
 - (6) A copy of the food truck operator’s valid State-issued driver’s license; and
 - (7) A copy of the valid State-issued driver’s license of every current employee whom the food truck operator intends to allow to drive the food truck or operate a vehicle that transports the food truck from one place to another, excluding emergency towing.

The City Manager or the Manager's designee may request additional information from the food truck operator through the food truck application. A food truck application submission is not considered to be complete until the food truck operator has provided, to the City Manager or Manager's designee's satisfaction, all information requested in the food truck application.

- (B) A food truck operator must submit a separate food truck application for each and every food truck that they intend to operate within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin.
- (C) Within fifteen (15) business days of receiving a complete food truck application, the City Manager or the Manager's designee shall examine the food truck application and provide a written determination in response to it. During this period, the City Manager or the Manager's designee may make, or cause to be made, any further investigation into such food truck application as they deem necessary, and they may extend the review period up to an additional fifteen (15) business days as needed to complete such further investigation.
- (D) The City Manager or the Manager's designee shall provide a written determination in response to each complete food truck application submission. If a complete food truck application is denied, then the reasons for such denial will be provided to the food truck operator in writing. If a complete food truck application is approved, then the food truck operator shall register the food truck with the City of Dublin Division of Taxation before beginning operations under the license.

123.04: OPERATIONS

- (A) Within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin, food truck operators shall not:
 - (1) Fail to display on or within the food truck the licensure mark issued under this Chapter;
 - (2) Fail to ensure that all food truck operations equipment is contained within or on the food truck, including while operating the food truck;
 - (3) Use speakers or audio amplification for any purpose, unless the food truck operator is operating an ice cream truck and such amplified sound falls within the noise/sound amplification parameters set forth in Section 72.021 of this Code;
 - (4) Be open for business or otherwise operate, on any given day, before 7:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m., unless permitted to operate outside of these hours as part of a City-Approved Event;
 - (5) On any given day, park their food truck upon public property or parking space(s) between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m., unless permitted to do so as part of a City-Approved Event;
 - (6) Tap into or otherwise use a power or water source belonging to the City of Dublin, any private party, or any other business to operate their food truck,

- unless the food truck operator has obtained the written consent of the party responsible for such power or water source;
- (7) Use an independent fuel source that produces or disperses noxious smoke or fumes, or an engine or generator power source that produces unreasonable noise, such that it violates the noise parameters set forth in Section 72.021 of this Code;
 - (8) Operate their food truck in such a way, or in such a location, that such operation: interferes with City-permitted functions; or orients the food truck's service window or other service area towards a public street or vehicular traffic; or otherwise impedes the reasonable flow of vehicular and/or pedestrian foot traffic;
 - (9) Set up or otherwise distribute, for customer use: a) any tables or auxiliary stations unless such tables or auxiliary stations are located within ten (10) feet from the food truck; or b) any chairs or apparatuses for seating regardless of their proximity to the food truck;
 - (10) Set up or display any signage, unless such display or signage is associated solely with the food truck and is located within ten (10) feet from the food truck;
 - (11) Dispose of any liquid waste or grease in tree pits or storm drains or onto the sidewalks, streets, trash cans, or other public space; or
 - (12) Cause or allow the food truck to be left unattended for any period of time.
- (B) A food truck shall not operate within the City of Dublin unless they are parked lawfully and fully within in a designated food truck parking zone.
- (C) Notwithstanding subsection (B), a food truck may operate, subject to the following conditions, upon:
- (1) A neighborhood street, if the food truck is lawfully parked thereon and has received written permission to operate at that location by an applicable homeowner's association, civic association, or similarly organized group of residents, or as part of a neighborhood event that has been allowed or recognized by the City Manager or the Manager's designee;
 - (2) A non-asphalt or non-concrete surface in connection with a City-Approved Event, if directed to park and operate thereon by the organizer of the event or their designee, or if such surface is within private property;
 - (3) Private property with a residential primary use in connection with a single-day event on the property, if they have both received written permission from the property owner to operate thereon and serve only those individuals whom the property owner has invited to the event;
 - (4) Private property with a non-residential primary use, a mixed-use parcel, or a vacant commercial parcel, if they do so for no more than fourteen (14) calendar days in a month and subject to the property owner's written consent for such operation; and

- (5) A neighborhood street or neighborhood park, if and only if the food truck is an ice cream truck and such operations are both safe and do not impede the flow of vehicular or pedestrian foot traffic thereon.

123.05: CITY-APPROVED EVENTS

- (A) No food truck may operate within one thousand (1000) feet of a City-Approved Event unless: a) such operation is occurring exclusively as a subset of a City-Approved event; or b) the food truck has received written consent from the organization or entity holding the City-Approved Event to do so.
- (B) A food truck may operate without a City of Dublin food truck license if such operation occurs exclusively as a subset of a City-Approved Event and if all such operations occur within the approved areas and time frames of such event.

123.06: EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL

- (A) Each food truck license is valid from the date of its issuance until the final day of February in the subsequent calendar year.
- (B) Upon the change of any information that must be submitted with a food truck application, the food truck operator shall provide to the City Manager or the Manager's designee the updated information within ten (10) business days.
- (C) No earlier than forty-five (45) days before the expiration of a food truck license issued under this Chapter, but no later than fifteen (15) days before the expiration of such license, the food truck operator may seek a renewal food truck license.
 - (a) As part of the food-truck-license renewal process, the food truck operator shall:
 - (1) Request such renewal in writing;
 - (2) Certify that all licenses and other information required in the initial food truck application are current and provide updated or current copies of such licenses;
 - (3) Acknowledge that any false or misleading statements in the renewal application may be sufficient cause to revoke the current food truck license and deny the renewal application; and
 - (4) Pay the applicable food truck license fee, as required by Section 123.02(B).
 - (b) Applications for renewals of food truck licenses may be given expedited processing.
- (D) If the food truck operator fails to seek renewal within the timeframe specified in this Section, then the applicable food truck license will expire at the end of the one-year period set forth in this Section. The food truck operator may submit a complete food

truck application at any time after the renewal period set forth in this Section lapses; however, the food truck operator shall not operate the applicable food truck during the time between the expiration of the food truck license and the issuance of a subsequent food truck license.

- (E) The City Manager or the Manager's designee shall approve or deny a food truck license renewal application under the same conditions as the initial approval of the food truck license. Additionally, the City Manager or the Manager's designee shall deny a food truck license renewal application if the food truck operator has not previously registered, or has not properly maintained the registration of, the food truck with the City of Dublin Division of Taxation.

123.07: LICENSE TRANSFERS PROHIBITED

- (A) All food truck licenses issued under this Chapter are non-transferrable and cannot be assigned by the licensee to any other individual or organization, or to any other food truck. No food truck operator shall transfer or attempt to transfer a food truck license issued under this Chapter under any circumstances.
- (B) If a food truck operator sells a food truck that is licensed or permitted under this Chapter while the food truck license is still in effect, the succeeding food truck operator must comply with the food truck application, inspection, and fee requirements of this Chapter before operating such food truck within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin.

123.08: ENFORCEMENT

- (A) Any code enforcement officer or police officer shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of this Chapter at any time, including but not limited to upon the receipt of a complaint.
- (B) The Washington Township Fire Department shall have the authority to inspect any food truck for any fire-related performance issue or operational deficiency. Upon the discovery of such a fire-related performance issue or operational deficiency, the Washington Township Fire Department may temporarily suspend the food truck operator's right to operate the food truck within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin until the performance issue or operational deficiency is remediated to the Washington Township Fire Department's satisfaction.

123.09: SUSPENSION; REVOCATION; APPEALS

- (A) The City Manager or the Manager's designee may revoke at any time any food truck license issued under the provisions of this Chapter for violation of any provision of this Chapter or one or more of the following reasons:
 - (1) Fraud, misrepresentation or bribery in securing a license or during the course of business;
 - (2) Failure to display the food truck license issued under this Chapter while operating within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin;
 - (3) Failure to have valid permits or licenses required by this Chapter;
 - (4) Conviction of any criminal or traffic offense while using a food truck or conviction of any criminal offense involving theft or fraud;
 - (5) For any of the reasons which could have been grounds for refusing to issue the original license; or
 - (6) Knowingly allowing another person to use such licensed food truck in violation of any provision of this Chapter.
- (B) Any person who has applied for a food truck license in accordance with this Chapter and to whom the City Manager or the Manager's designee has, after an investigation, denied a food truck license; or any person who has had a food truck license be not renewed; or any person who has had a food truck license revoked or suspended, may appeal such determination to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- (C) Notice of an appeal shall be filed in accordance with Code § 153.231. Such appeal shall be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals at the next regular meeting, unless the food truck operator requests a later date, in accordance with Code §153.231, including all rights of appeal.

123.99: PENALTY

- (A) Whoever violates Sections 123.02, 123.07, or 123.08 of this Chapter shall be guilty of a third-degree misdemeanor.
- (B) Whoever violates any other Section of this Chapter shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor for the first offense of any subsection, a fourth-degree misdemeanor for a second offense of the same subsection, and a third-degree misdemeanor for third and any subsequent offense of the same subsection.
- (C) Each day on which any such activities are conducted in violation of this Chapter shall constitute a separate offense.

Related Necessary Code Revisions:

- Delete all food truck zoning regulations in 153.172(C)(3)(f);
- Delete food truck definition at 153.002(A)(6)(c).

FOOD TRUCK REGULATIONS

May 11, 2026

AGENDA

- Strategic Alignment
- Draft Code Language
- Additional Considerations
- Recommendation



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

- **Community Events Roadmap** (Resolution 35-25): includes an action item to establish clear regulations for food truck operations within park spaces.
- **Downtown Dublin Curbside Management Plan** (Resolution 38-25): includes a recommendation to formalize a food truck and curbside vendor program to provide clarity on where and when operations are allowed, preferred, or discouraged.

DRAFT CODE CHANGES

- Delete definition §153.002(A)(6)(c)
- Delete §153.172(C)(3)(f)
- Draft Chapter §123
 - 123.01 Definitions
 - 123.02 License required for operation
 - 123.03 Food truck application
 - 123.04 Operations
 - 123.05 City-approved events and parks
 - 123.06 Operation on private property
 - 123.07 Expiration and renewal
 - 123.08 License transfers prohibited
 - 123.09 Enforcement
 - 123.99 Penalty

HIGH-LEVEL OVERVIEW:

- Pilot Program (License fee to begin March 1, 2027)
- Annual License
- License fee determined through Cost Study (waived initially)
- Designated corridor approach with the focus on:
 - Minimizing competition with restaurants
 - Ensuring safety
 - Supporting a positive user experience
- Locations will be reserved
- Application Requirements: Food Service Operations License (through the State), State-issued driver's license and valid vehicle registration
- Registered through the City of Dublin Division of Taxation
- Washington Township Fire Department partnering to ensure each Food Truck is inspected prior to license issuance
- Appeals will be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals
- Violation of this code could result in a third-degree misdemeanor

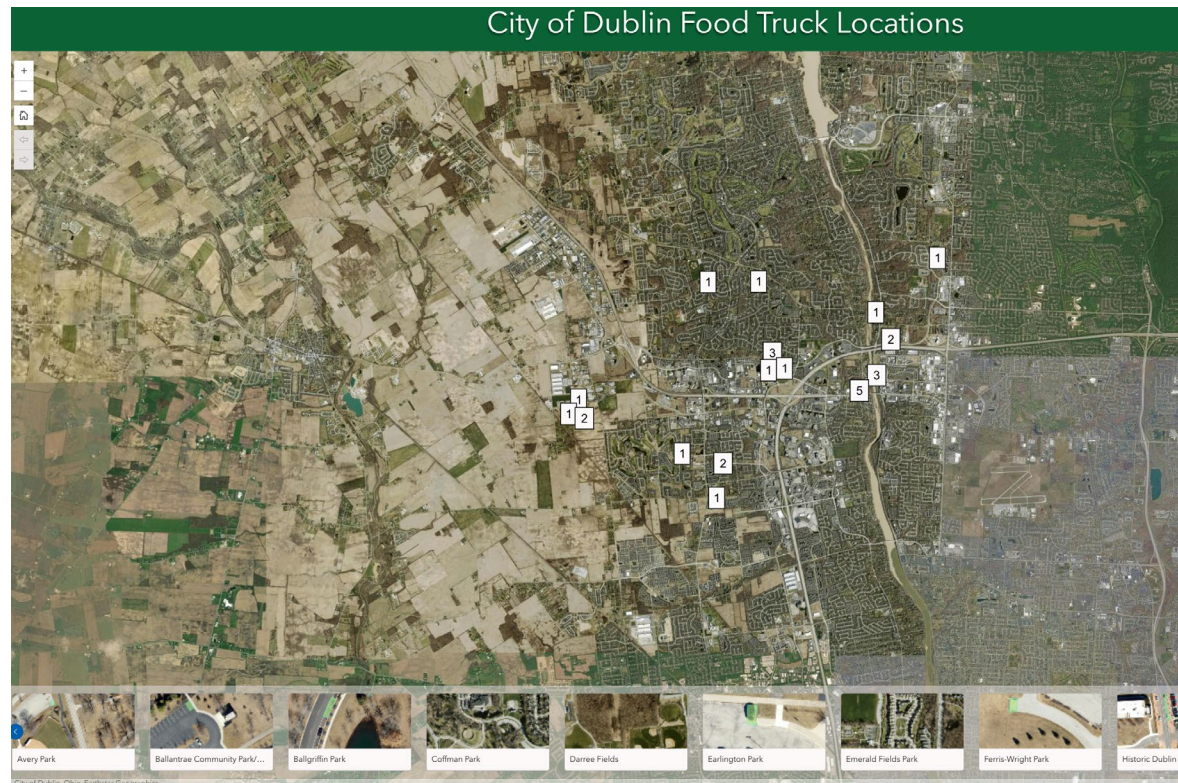
OPERATIONS

- Hours 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Must display valid City-issued food truck license while operating
- All equipment must be contained within or on the truck
- No speakers or amplified sound (except permitted ice cream trucks)
- Cannot use utilities without property owner consent
- Must avoid excessive noise, smoke or fumes from generators or fuel sources
- Cannot interfere with City-Approved Events (1,000 buffer)
- No disposal of any liquid waste or grease
- Auxiliary stations (condiments table, signage, coolers) must be within 10 ft
- Parking only in City-designated parking spaces
- No parking between 11:00 pm and 6:00 am the following day



MAP

- 12 designated locations
- Link: [City of Dublin Food Truck Locations](#)



ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS



1. Visit Dublin Board and Hospital Industry Feedback
2. Sports Complexes – Partner Organizations
3. Zencity Food Truck Sentiment
4. Education Plan
5. Next Steps

VISIT DUBLIN BOARD & HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY FEEDBACK

- General Support with Structure: Food trucks are supported when used in a managed, event-focused approach that enhances community experience
- Protect Local Businesses: Avoid direct competition with restaurants and recognize their significant economic impact
- Strategic Placement Matters: Limit use in high-traffic areas (ie. High Street, Riverside Drive)
- Clear Standards & Partnerships: Implement licensing/safety guidelines and explore collaboration opportunities with local businesses



SPORTS COMPLEXES – PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Three sports complexes: Darree Fields, Avery Park, and Emerald Fields
- Two complexes partner with youth organizations for concession operations
- Agreements do not include a non-compete clause
- Concessions are a significant revenue source for partner organizations, staff has heard from the organizations in the past when food trucks came to the park unannounced
- PSC noted limited food options and capacity challenges, recommending allowing food trucks in designated locations within the complexes
 - Darree: 4
 - Emerald: 2
 - Avery: 1



EDUCATION

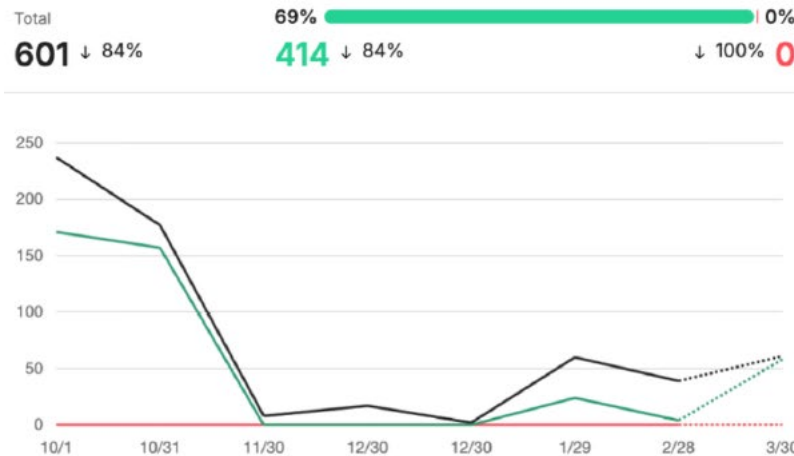
- Comprehensive Educational Website
 - Outlines the license and application process, designated locations, prohibited dates, and regulatory resources
- Regulations effective upon passage, licensure aspect enforced on March 1, 2027
 - Creates alignment with State food truck permit process
- Collaborate with Central Ohio Food Truck Association to promote awareness and understanding of the new requirements



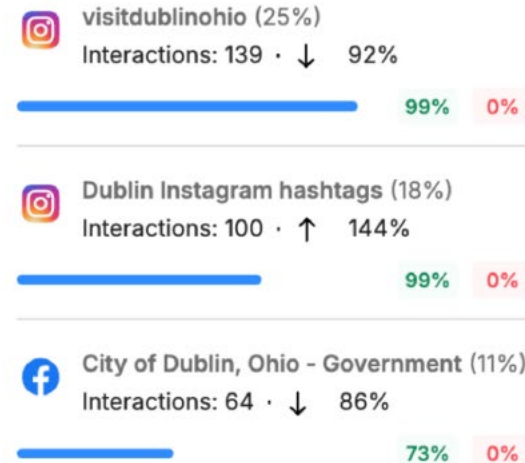
ZENCITY SENTIMENT REPORT

- Community sentiment remains overwhelmingly positive
- No emerging concerns related to regulation, safety or competition
- Engagement driven primarily by social media and community event promotion
- Food trucks viewed as strong community asset

Volume of Interactions



Top Sources



NEXT STEPS

If City Council is supportive of the proposed code amendments after incorporating any feedback, staff will:

1. Present draft language to amend the City Code at a future council meeting
2. Engage the Central Ohio Food Truck Association
3. Develop the comprehensive website

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Does City Council support the draft code?
2. Does City Council support food trucks operating in City community and athletic parks?
3. Are there any additional elements City Council would like incorporated into the draft code or education plan?
4. Does City Council have additional locations they would like to see designated as food truck parking zones?