Review of Selected Tennessee Municipal Food Truck Ordinances

MTAS Research and Information Center | April 2021



City	Food truck Specific	Types of units	Locations/Placement allowed	Hours of Operation	Restroom Required for	Operation	Licensing/Insurance	Permits/Fees/Offenses	Enforcement	Other/Notes
Lity	Ordinance?	covered	Locations/ nacement anowed	riours of operation	employees	operation	Licensing/insurance	r ennis, r ees, onenses	Linorcement	other/Notes
	orumanee.	covered			cinployees					
Alcoa	No									
Alcoa Ashland City	No Yes	Food trucks, food truck rallies, ice cream trucks, mobile food service unit	Food Trucks: Specific areas in the city (map on city website); Right- of-way, public property, private property (with additional clarification: permission, unimproved properties, frequency, maximum number of food trucks, existing parking spaces); Ice Cream trucks: ROW with time limitations, private property with parking space usage and time limitations		FOOD TRUCKS: if operating at a location for more than three hours, flushable restroom required to be within 450 feet of location	business access; pedestrians; distance between units; types of cooking apparatus; noise; commissary; utilities; fire extinguishers required; support methods; pedestrian service only; spills; waste collection; sigange; alcohol sales; insurance	must be licensed "in accordance with the rules and regulations of any local, state and federal agency having jurisdiction over motor vehicles and all products sold therein must be properly licensed, permitted, and allowed by local state and federal laws or regulations."	Food trucks may operate from city parking spaces or other public property only where a Mobile Food Unit Zone has been established. Existing Mobile Food Unit zones are: Any food truck may operate in any Mobile Food Unit zone by: 1) Having obtained all required business licenses for a mobile food unit permit as required by Section 20- 148. 2) Showing proof of insurance with paid-up premiums for one year as required by Section 20-152. 3) Reading and complying with the Mobile Food Unit (MFU) Zone Policy and Procedure. 4) Reserving metered parking space(s) in the MFU zone through the Chattanooga		
Chattanooga	Yes	Commissaries, mobile food units	city established "mobile food unit" zones; restricted from certain listed areas of the city; request accepted to vend in restricted areas; restricted from "sidewalk clear zones"; restrictions in city parks and other community centers	No sales or dispensing between 3am and 6am		not in use; signage; waste	Business licenses; county or state required licenses; drivers license, auto insurance, vehicle registration	Parking Authority: 423-648- Permits required (Director of Open Spaces grants permits); \$50 permit fee	Location violations enforced by zoning inspectors;	
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	No									
Farragut	No									
Farragut Johnson City Kingston Springs	No No No (working on it									

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INSTITUTE for PUBLIC SERVICE

City	Food truck Specific		Locations/Placement allowed	Hours of Operation	Restroom Required for	Operation	Licensing/Insurance	Permits/Fees/Offenses	Enforcement	Other/Notes
	Ordinance?	covered			employees					
Knoxville	Yes	mobile food units, mobile ice cream units, prepackaged food, prepared food, smokers; DOES NOT REGULATE: ice cream vending units, pedestrian vendors, prepackaged or prepared food vendors.	Exempted units not allowed in MFU "zones"; additional structures; distance between units; zoning district restrictions; additional restrictions on private property usage	In zoned Office Districts, MFUS prohibited from 7:00pm-7:00am		additional structures, distances, Zoning restrictions; electrical requirements and service; fire code requirements and inspection; items that can be sold; alcohol prohibited; max number of units per parcel; support methods; obstruction of traffic; unimproved lots; parking direction; preparing food outside the MFU; public alleys; pedestrian service only; signage; sound amplification; special events; spills; unattended MFU; waster storage and disposal. PRIVATE PROPERTY RESTRICTIONS: electrical service; permit required	liability; limits specified by TCA 29-20-403	Permit required; \$200 fee; permit renewal \$50; Temporary permits \$75 (office of business support and plans reviews and inspections); units inspected after permitted; \$50 per violation of ordinance; 3 violations revoke permit	Operating without permit \$50 fine; vehicle may be ticketd and impounded; Office of business supprt issues notice of complaint; plans reviews and inspection investigates complaint; vendor can appeal revocation to special panel	"Any vendor operating under this article shall comply with all requirements of the city with regard to risk management, including the provision of insurance in accordance with the standards set by the city and the executive of an indemnity agreement in favor of the city." Parks and community centers have their own operations regulations which must be adopted by council
Memphis	Yes	mobile food trucks and industrial caterers; mobile food markets	Zoning district restrictions; Private property with permission of owner; restrictions in operating near special events, farmers amrkets, certain venues at certain times; special use permit required to operate in certain residential areas or parks			Distance from school or school playground in residential district; Distance restrictions based on whether inside or outside the Central Business Improvement District; distance restrictions on private property; no cooking while moving; signage; waste collaction and disposal; food sanitation; food handler; equipment standards; maintenance of food preparation areas; vehicle sanitation	Current TN driver's license, auto insurance, vehicle registration	Permit required; Commissary license required or a commissary agreement		TCA 53-8-101-117 Repealed by PC150 2017; Memphis has more detail in the regulation of the food itself in this ordinance

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	Ordinance?	covered			employees					
Murfreesboro	Yes	Canteen trucks, Food trucks, food truck rallies, ice cream trucks, mobile food service unit	Food Trucks: Specific areas in the city (map on city website); Right- of-way, public property, private property (with additional clarification: permission, unimproved properties, frequency, maximum number of food trucks, existing parking spaces); Canteen trucks: can operate from ROW to cater to onsite employees of single location for limited amount of time, private property; Ice Cream trucks: ROW with time limitations, private property with parking space usage and time limitations; no parking in public alleys, parking and curb distance restrictions; non-operational restrictions,	ice cream trucks 11am and before sunset	FOOD TRUCKS: if operating at a location for more than three hours, flushable restroom required to be within 450 feet of location	vehicle requirements; business access; pedestrians; distance between units; types of cooking apparatus; noise; commissary; utilities; fire extinguishers required; support methods; pedestrian service only; spills; waste collection; sigange; alcohol sales; insurance requirements	must be licensed "in accordance with the rules and regulations of any local, state and federal agency having jurisdiction over motor vehicles and all products sold therein must be properly licensed, permitted, and allowed by local state and federal laws or regulations."	Permit required; If issued, permit good for 1 year; \$50.00 [permit application available]; Violations of ordinance: one-hour temp permit & \$500 fine; warning; citation; suspension; revocation; reinstatement; notice; APPEAL to city manager.		Food truck rallies on public or private property require special event permit "and the exceptions granted undet Section 21-63 for special event locations are inapplicable to Food Truck Rallies."
Nashville	No ordinance but a regulatory pilot program in place since 2012		Mobile food vending must follow all existing codes and ordinances and shall be prohibited at the following locations: Within 150 feet of a building in which a full-service restaurant or fast-food restaurant is located and operating, as defined in Section 17.04.040 of the Metropolitan Code, unless approval is obtained in writing from the owner of the business. Within 20 feet of any structure built of combustible construction and within 10 feet of any structure built of non- combustible construction. Within 15 feet of any fire hydrant, fire escape, bus stop, any intersection curb radius return (the point of intersection of the street curb line and the curb radius), any doorway or driveway or other main entrance of any building, and of any emergency or fire exits.	No vending operations shall take place in the right-of- way between the hours of 3:30a.m. and 6:00a.m unless otherwise posted.			Post Mobile Food Vendor Permit in the window or display prominently on the vehicle. This permit shall be visible to Public Works inspectors. Post all other department permits and/or licenses as required by that department.	Obtain necessary inspections and permits required by Metro Government to operate a mobile food truck in Davidson County (Codes, Solid Waste, Fire, Health, County Clerk's Office, etc.). Apply for and obtain a Mobile Food Vendor Permit from Metro Public Works Permit Office. This permit is required in order to vend inside or outside of the right of way in Davidson County, is non-transferrable, and is required for each mobile food vending unit. Post Mobile Food Vendor Permit in the window or display prominently on the vehicle. This permit shall be visible to Public Works inspectors. Post all other department permits and/or licenses as required by that department. A PUBLIC WORKS MFV		https://mpw.nashville.gov/MFV/PilotP rogram.aspx

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City	Food truck Specific Ordinance?	Types of units covered	Locations/Placement allowed	Hours of Operation	Restroom Required for employees	Operation	Licensing/Insurance	Permits/Fees/Offenses	Enforcement	Other/Notes
Sparta	Yes	enclosed unit, truck, or trailer, pushcart, or similar vehicle-mounted unit.	No vendor can operate on public property.			Signs and flashing lights, sound, special events, spills, utilities, waste storage and disposal, fire safety, sight distance/safety.		\$100- 30 day permit, \$300- 180 day permit, \$500- 365 day permit Fine of \$50 per day for any violations	It shall be the duty of all police and codes officers to see that the provisions of this chapter and/or other city ordinances that pertains are enforced.	
Springfield	Yes	truck rallies, ice	private property; no parking in	ice cream trucks 11am and before sunset	FOOD TRUCKS: if operating at a location for more than three hours, flushable restroom required to be within 450 feet of location	business access; pedestrians; distance between units; types of cooking apparatus; noise; commissary; utilities; fire extinguishers required; support methods; pedestrian service only; spills; waste collection; sigange; alcohol sales; insurance	and regulations of any local, state and federal agency having jurisdiction over motor vehicles and all	Permit required; If issued, permit good for 1 year; \$50.00 [permit application available]; Fines;Suspension; Revocation; Reinstatement; Notice	Police and Codes Departments enforce ordinance	Food truck rallies on public property requirement a parade/special event permit.