



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

Food Vendor Discussion Minutes

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Commissioners' Boardroom
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231
Salem, Oregon 97301

Attendance:

Commissioner's: Colm Willis, Danielle Bethell, and Kevin Cameron.

Board's Office: Trevor Lane, Alvin Klausen, Chris Eppley, Heather Inyama, Matt Lawyer, and Toni Whitler.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga, and Jennifer Rogers.

Health and Human Services: Alisa Zastoupil, and Ryan Matthews.

Sheriff's Office: Jeremy Landers, and Nick Hunter.

Citizen: Kathy Rogers.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions

-Commissioner Colm Willis

2. Updates on Complaints/Visits

-Alisa Zastoupil

- Primary is a repeatedly non-compliant vendor on Lancaster Drive:
 - Operating at the Midas/Elmer's corner.
- Timeline:
 - August 2025 - First formal contact:
 - Operating with tents, tables, and basic setup.
 - No appropriate licensing and cease-and-desist order issued.
 - November 13, 2025:
 - Purchased food truck and was not yet licensed.
 - Another cease and desist issued.
 - December 12, 2025:
 - Licensed food truck on-site but operating outside truck.
 - No water available that day.
 - Vendor agreed verbally to close and began packing up.
 - December 13, 2025 (Sunday):
 - Reopened with same non-compliant setup.
 - Issued a formal order of closure and closure sticker placed on truck.
- Observed food safety conditions at Lancaster case:
 - Carcass of animal (likely pork) seen on a metal platform on dirt.
 - Vendor is reportedly well-known on social media:
 - Films and posts enforcement interactions.
- Continuing to operate after a closure order:

- At times returned to fully compliant operation, in-truck only.
- Vendor reportedly stated when operating in truck, revenue is lower.
- Significant complaints from Lancaster Driver businesses.
- Other sites:
 - DeLaney Road "Smokehouse" site:
 - Food truck and additional permanent/semi-permanent structures.
 - Past issues of unapproved water system and improper water disposal.
 - Detroit site (H & K-type market/food truck):
 - Bad water appeared to be resolved as a private line flushing issue
 - Enforcement action appeared to be initiated by city enforcement.

3. Ordinance Enforcement Options

-Sheriff's Office

- Current framework:
 - Civil penalties.
 - Cease and desist orders and closure orders with stickers.
 - Confiscation of carts/equipment in case of unlicensed street vendors.
 - Licensed food trucks currently exempt from street vendor ordinance.
- Civil penalties:
 - If unpaid, penalties can escalate to collections.
 - Authority to revoke food truck license and bring to street vendor ordinance.
- Seizure / tow of food trucks (or carts):
 - Allows seizure of equipment to secure payment of fines and deter violations.
 - Food trucks on private property have greater legal and practical concerns.
- Civil penalties and confiscation model (for carts):
 - Fine levied, and cart seized as collateral.
 - If not paid, cart can be sold or disposed.
 - County has authority to close food facilities with health hazards.
- Health staff can close but challenge of compliance.
- Sheriff's concern with enforcing regulations differing from standard role:
 - Seizing trucks and handling food.
- City/county jurisdiction and opting-in:
 - Salem considering opting into county ordinance for some corridors as a pilot:
 - Lancaster Drive and Cordon Road.
 - Allows county/sheriff to enforce street vendor ordinance within these streets.
- Hold property owners responsible when their property is used for violations:
 - Potential land-use code violations or nuisance actions.
- Concept of an escalated framework:
 - Step 1: Education, warning, and closure orders.
 - Step 2: Civil penalties and repeat visits.
 - Step 3: Revoking license and bringing under street vendor ordinance.
 - Step 4: Seizure or other serious actions, where legally supportable.
- Cross-functional Food Cars and Street Vendors Team:
 - Coordinate Health, Legal, and Sheriff's office in high-risk or repeat cases.

4. Environmental Health Licensing Staff Updates

- a. How Many Staff?:
 - Environmental Health staffing.
 - 6.85 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE):
 - 4 full-time and 2 part-time inspectors.
 - Program responsibilities:

- License and inspect pools, restaurants, hotels, and food trucks.
- Oversight of temporary restaurants associated with events.
- Complaint investigations, like unlicensed or health hazard reports.

b. How Many Hours?:

- Workload and capacity data from 2024 and representative of 2025:
 - Total hours needed align with current staffing capacity.
 - Model is within about 200 hours of ideal.
- Time on complaints and reinspection is not built into staffing model:
 - Need to stretch capacity to cover:
 - Complaint-driven inspections.
 - Follow-up rechecks for non-compliant facilities.
 - Unlicensed vendors and evening/weekend events.
- As of 2024, approximately 341 food trucks licensed in the county:
 - Large oversight workload given mobility and event-driven operations.

c. How do Staff Engage After Regular Business Hours?:

- Typical schedule is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday.
- One inspector has a 4-day week and a 10-hour day, to about 6:30 p.m.
- Seven inspectors participate in rotation:
 - Each works every 7th Saturday, depending on events and complaints.
 - Weekend assignments often event driven.
- Flextime used rather than overtime when possible:
 - If approved adjust hours so event coverage is in schedule.
 - Overtime limited to late permits and pre-planning not possible.
- Complaint response priorities:
 - High-priority health hazards:
 - Sewage in facility, no water, other immediate health risks:
 - Must be investigated in 24 hours, including weekends.
 - Inspectors on-call Saturdays until 3 p.m.
 - Sunday response:
 - For high-priority complaints.
 - Generally deferred until Monday morning.
 - Unlicensed vendor complaints:
 - Not formally categorized as immediate health hazards.
 - Addressed as soon as able depending on staff and schedule.
 - Major barrier operating late at night.

5. Staffing Budget (2026) Request

- Currently staffing calibrated for known required hours.
- Staffing model is appropriately staffed under current fee structure.
- Any enhanced enforcement strategy will likely require:
 - Reallocation of existing staff time, or
 - Additional staffing or overtime to respond during high-risk windows.

6. Next Steps

- Legal Counsel is preparing a detailed memo:
 - The county's public health authority.
 - The street vendor ordinance, if Salem opts in.
 - Analyze due process requirements and legal risk.
 - Complete memo by end of February and schedule a meeting.
- Planning with Health and Sheriff's Office:
 - Potential deputy accompaniment during high-risk closure visits.
 - Clarifying what law enforcement will and will not do.
- Confirm if City of Salem will opt-in.
- Consider developing formal Food Carts and Street Vendors Team.
- Outreach and communication ahead of spring/summer season:
 - Renewed public information campaigns including Spanish media.
- Follow up on specific sites:
 - Lancaster Drive.
 - DeLaney Road.
 - Detroit operation.

Adjourned – time: 2:20 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White