

Chapter 4

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

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## ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

**Secs. 4-1 – 4.30. Reserved.**

### **Section 4.31. Adoption of State Law by Reference.**

The provisions of M. S. Chapter 340A, as they may be amended from time to time, with reference to the definition of terms, conditions of operation, restrictions on consumption, provisions relating to sales, hours of sale, and all other matters pertaining to the retail sale, distribution, and consumption of intoxicating liquor and 3.2 percent malt liquor are hereby adopted by reference and are made a part of this ordinance as if set out in full. It is the intention of the City Council that all future amendments to M. S. Chapter 340A are hereby adopted by reference or referenced as if they had been in existence at the time this ordinance is adopted.

### **Section 4-32. City May Be More Restrictive Than State Law.**

The City Council is authorized by the provisions of M. S. § 340A.509, as it may be amended from time to time, to impose, and has imposed in this ordinance, additional restrictions on the sale and possession of alcoholic beverages within its limits beyond those contained in M. S. Chapter 340A, as it may be amended from time to time.

### **Section 4-33. Definitions.**

In addition to the definitions contained in M. S. § 340A.101, as it may be amended from time to time, the following terms are defined for purposes of this ordinance:

*Liquor*, as used in this ordinance, without modification by the words "intoxicating" or "3.2 percent malt", includes both intoxicating liquor and 3.2 percent malt liquor.

*Restaurant* means an eating facility, other than a hotel, under the control of a single proprietor or manager, where meals are regularly prepared on the premises, where full waitress/waiter table service is provided, where a customer orders food from printed menus and where the main food course is served and consumed while seated at a single location. To be a restaurant as defined by this term in this ordinance, an establishment shall have a license from the state as required by M. S. § 157.16, as it may be amended from time to time, and meet the definition of either a "small establishment", "medium establishment" or "large establishment" as defined in M. S. § 157.16, subd. 3d, as it may be amended from time to time. An establishment which serves prepackaged food that receives heat treatment and is served in the package or frozen pizza that is heated and served, shall not be considered to be a restaurant for purposes of this chapter unless it meets the definitions of "small establishment", "medium establishment" or "large establishment".

### **Section 4-34. Nudity on The Premises of Licensed Establishments Prohibited.**

- A. The City Council finds that it is in the best interests of the public health, safety and general welfare of the people of the city that nudity is prohibited as provided in this section on the premises of any establishment licensed under this ordinance. This is to protect and assist the owners, operators and employees of the establishment, as well as patrons and the public in general, from harm stemming from the physical immediacy and combination of alcohol, nudity and sex. The City Council especially intends to prevent any subliminal endorsement of sexual harassment or activities likely to lead to the possibility of various criminal conduct, including prostitution, sexual assault and disorderly conduct. The City Council also finds that the prohibition of nudity on the premises of any establishment licensed under this ordinance, as set forth in this section, reflects the prevailing community standards of the city.
- B. It is unlawful for any licensee to permit or allow any person or persons on the licensed premises when the person does not have his or her buttocks, anus, breasts and genitals covered with a non-transparent material. It is unlawful for any person to be on the licensed premises when the person does not have his or her buttocks, anus, breasts and genitals covered with a non-transparent material.

- C. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable as provided by law, and is justification for revocation or suspension of any liquor, wine or 3.2 percent malt liquor license or the imposition of a civil penalty under the provisions of Section 4-59(B) of this ordinance.

**Section 4-35. Consumption In Public Places.**

No person shall consume intoxicating liquor or 3.2 percent malt liquor in a public park, on any public street, sidewalk, parking lot or alley, or in any public place other than on the premises of an establishment licensed under this ordinance, in a municipal liquor dispensary if one exists in the city, or where the consumption and display of liquor is lawfully permitted without obtaining a temporary license from the City.

**ARTICLE II. LICENSING**

**Section 4-36. Number of Licenses Which May Be Issued.**

State law establishes the number of liquor licenses that a city may issue. The maximum number of on-sale liquor licenses that may be issued is five (5), for statutory cities of 2,500 to 5,000 population, under the provisions of M.S. § 340A.413, subd. 1, as it may be amended from time to time. On-sale liquor licenses may be issued up to the number of licenses authorized by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 340A, as it may be amended from time to time. The City Council is not required to issue the full number of licenses that it has available.

(Ord 02-2016, 2-16-2016)

**Section 4-37. Term and Expiration of Licenses.**

Each license shall be issued for a maximum period of one year. All licenses, except temporary licenses, shall expire on December 31 of each year unless another date is provided by ordinance. All licenses shall expire on the same date. Temporary licenses expire according to their terms. Consumption and display permits issued by the Commissioner of Public Safety, and the accompanying city consent to the permit, shall expire on March 31 of each year.

**Section 4-38. Kinds of Liquor Licenses.**

The City Council of a city that does not have a municipal liquor store is authorized to issue the following licenses and permits, up to the number specified in Section 36 of this ordinance.

- A. 3.2 percent malt liquor on-sale licenses, which may be issued only to restaurants, hotels, clubs, bowling centers and establishments used exclusively for the sale of 3.2 percent malt liquor with the incidental sale of tobacco and soft drinks.
- B. 3.2 percent malt liquor off-sale license.
- C. Temporary 3.2 percent malt liquor licenses which may be issued only to a club, charitable, religious or nonprofit organization.
- D. Off-sale intoxicating liquor licenses, which may be issued only to exclusive liquor stores or drug stores that have an off-sale license which was first issued on or before May 1, 1994. The fee for an off-sale intoxicating liquor license established by the City Council under Section 4-39 shall not exceed \$100 or a greater amount which may be permitted by M. S. § 340A.408, subd. 3, as it may be amended from time to time.
- E. On-sale intoxicating liquor licenses, which may be issued to the following establishments as defined by M. S. § 340A.101, as it may be amended from time to time, and this ordinance: hotels, restaurants, bowling centers, clubs or congressionally chartered veterans organizations, and exclusive liquor stores. Club licenses may be issued only with the approval of the Commissioner of

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Public Safety. The fee for club licenses established by the City Council under Section 4-39 of this ordinance shall not exceed the amounts provided for in M. S. § 340A.408, subd. 2(b), as it may be amended from time to time. The City Council may in its sound discretion authorize a retail on-sale licensee to dispense intoxicating liquor off the licensed premises at a community festival held within the city under the provisions of M. S. § 340A.404, subd. 4b, as it may be amended from time to time. The City Council may in its sound discretion authorize a retail on-sale licensee to dispense intoxicating liquor off the licensed premises at any convention, banquet, conference, meeting or social affair conducted on the premises of a sports, convention, or cultural facility owned by the city, under the provisions of 340A.404, subd. 4a, as it may be amended from time to time; however, the licensee is prohibited from dispensing intoxicating liquor to any person attending or participating in an amateur athletic event being held on the premises.

1. Food sales. No on-sale intoxicating liquor license shall be issued to an establishment unless at least 50 percent of the gross food and beverage receipts of the establishment are annually attributable to the sale of food. This requirement shall be regulated as follows:
  - a. Each on-sale intoxicating licensee shall have the continuing obligation to have at least 50 percent of gross food and beverage receipts from the establishment during the preceding business year attributable to the sale of food.
  - b. In the case of a new establishment, the applicant must make a bonafide estimation that at least 50 percent of the gross receipts from the sale of food and beverages of the establishment during its first year of business will be attributable to the sale of food.
  - c. Financial records for the food and beverage portion must be maintained separately from the records of the remainder of the establishment.
  - d. For the purpose of this section, "sale of food" shall include gross receipts attributable to the sale of food items, soft-drinks and nonalcoholic beverages. It shall not include any portion of gross receipts attributable to the nonalcoholic components of plain or mixed alcoholic beverages, such as ice, soft-drink mixes or other mixes.
  - e. The city may require the production of such documents or information, including but not limited to books, records, audited financial statements or pro forma financial statements, sales reports and analysis as it deems necessary or convenient to enforce these provisions. The city may also obtain its own audit or review of such documents or information, and all licensees shall cooperate with such a review, including prompt production of requested records.
  - f. Establishments found to fall below the 50 percent standard of annual food sales from the preceding business year shall be required to meet with the city clerk, prior to license renewal, and reassess their business operations and prepare and implement a plan of operations reasonably directed to achieve the 50 percent food sales requirement in the subsequent year. The plan will be subject to the approval of the city administrator. Public safety compliance confirmation will be reviewed by the city clerk and the director of public safety.
  - g. Establishments found to have less than 40 percent of annual gross food receipts may be placed on probation status. The probationary status review will be conducted by the city council and the council may require the establishment be placed on probationary status for one year and require the licensee to prepare any plans and reports, participate in any required meetings and take other action that the city may require to increase the sale of food. The licensee shall submit the plans and periodic reports to the city clerk.
  - h. If, after the initial probationary period, food sales are still less than 40 percent and the establishment is not in compliance with applicable statute, regulation or ordinance relating to alcoholic beverage, the city council may:
    - (1) Extend the probation period up to 12 additional months;

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- (2) Limit alcohol service hours by revoking an establishment's 2:00 a.m. liquor license (if applicable);
  - (3) Reduce the hours of service by one hour for the period of one year; or
  - (4) Deem the establishment ineligible to sell intoxicating beverages.
- i. Denial of an intoxicating liquor license shall not prohibit the license holder from applying to obtain a license to sell 3.2 percent malt beverages.
  - j. Food must be available to guests up until two hours before discontinuing alcohol service.

(Ord 02-2016, 2/16/2016)

- F. Sunday on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses, only after authorization to do so by voter approval at a general or special election as provided by M. S. § 340A.504, subd. 3, as it may be amended from time to time. Sunday on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses may be issued only to a restaurant, as defined in Section 4-33 of this ordinance, club, bowling center, or hotel which has a seating capacity of at least 30 persons, which holds an on-sale intoxicating liquor license, and which serves liquor only in conjunction with the service of food. The maximum fee for this license which shall be established by the City Council under the provisions of Section 9 of this ordinance, shall not exceed \$200, or the maximum amount provided by M. S. § 340A.504, subd 3(c) as it may be amended from time to time.
- G. Combination on-sale/off-sale intoxicating liquor licenses if the city has a population less than 10,000.
- H. Temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses, with the approval of the Commissioner of Public Safety, which may be issued only in connection with a social event sponsored by a club, charitable, religious or other nonprofit corporation that has existed for at least three years. No license shall be for longer than four consecutive days, and the city shall issue no more than 12 days worth of temporary licenses to any one organization in one calendar year.
- I. On-sale wine licenses, with the approval of the Commissioner of Public Safety to: restaurants that have facilities for seating at least 25 guests at one time and meet the criteria of M. S. 340A.404, subd 5, as it may be amended from time to time, and which meet the definition of restaurant in Section 3 of this ordinance; and to licensed bed and breakfast facilities which meet the criteria in M. S. § 340A.401, subd 1 as it may be amended from time to time. The fee for an on-sale wine license established by the City Council under the provisions of Section 4-39 of this ordinance shall not exceed one-half of the license fee charged for an on-sale intoxicating liquor license. The holder of an on-sale wine license who also holds an on sale 3.2 percent malt liquor license is authorized to sell malt liquor with a content over 3.2 percent (strong beer) without an additional license.
- J. One day consumption and display permits with the approval of the Commissioner of Public Safety to a nonprofit organization in conjunction with a social activity in the city sponsored by the organization.
- K. Approval of the issuance of a consumption and display by the Commissioner of Public Safety. The maximum amount of the additional fee which may be imposed by the City Council on a person who has been issued a consumption and display permit under the provisions of Section 4-39 of this ordinance shall not exceed \$300, or the maximum amount permitted by M. S. §340A.14, subd 6, as it may be amended from time to time. Consumption and display permits shall expire on March 31 of each year.

**Section 4-39. License Fees; Pro Rata.**

- A. No license or other fee established by the city shall exceed any limit established by M. S. § 340A, as it may be amended from time to time, for a liquor license.

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- B. The City Council may establish from time to time by ordinance or resolution the fee for any of the liquor licenses it is authorized to issue. The license fee may not exceed the cost of issuing the license and other costs directly related to the enforcement of the liquor laws and this ordinance. No liquor license fee shall be increased without providing mailed notice of a hearing on the proposed increase to all affected licensees at least 30 days before the hearing.
- C. The fee for all licenses, except temporary licenses, granted after the commencement of the license year shall be prorated on a quarterly basis.
- D. All license fees shall be paid in full at the time the application is filed with the city. If the application is denied, the license fee shall be returned to the applicant.
- E. A refund of a pro rata share of an annual license fee may occur only if authorized by M. S. § 340A.408, subd. 5.

### **Section 4-40. City Council Discretion to Grant or Deny a License.**

The City Council in its sound discretion may either grant or deny the application for any license or for the transfer or renewal of any license. No applicant has a right to a license under this ordinance.

### **Section 4-41. Application For License.**

- A. *Form.* Every application for a license issued under this ordinance shall be on a form provided by the city. Every application shall state the name of the applicant, the applicant's age, representations as to the applicant's character, with references as the City Council may require, the type of license applied for, the business in connection with which the proposed license will operate and its location, a description of the premises, whether the applicant is owner and operator of the business, how long the applicant has been in that business at that place, and other information as the City Council may require from time to time. An application for an on-sale intoxicating liquor license shall be in the form prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Safety and shall also contain the information required in this section. The form shall be verified and filed with the city. No person shall make a false statement in an application.
- B. *Financial responsibility.* Prior to the issuance of any license under this ordinance, the applicant shall demonstrate proof of financial responsibility as defined in M. S. § 340A.409, as it may be amended from time to time, with regard to liability under M. S. § 340A.801, as it may be amended from time to time. This proof will be filed with the city and the Commissioner of Public Safety. Any liability insurance policy filed as proof of financial responsibility under this section shall conform to M. S. § 340A.409, as it may be amended from time to time. Operation of a business which is required to be licensed by this ordinance without having on file with the city at all times effective proof of financial responsibility is a cause for revocation of the license.

### **Section 4-42. Description of Premises.**

The application shall specifically describe the compact and contiguous premises within which liquor may be dispensed and consumed. The description may not include any parking or public areas.

### **Section 4-43. Applications for Renewal.**

- A. At least 90 days before a license issued under this ordinance is to be renewed, an application for renewal shall be filed with the city. The decision whether or not to renew a license rests within the sound discretion of the City Council. No licensee has a right to have the license renewed.
- B. The City Council shall not renew a license unless the holder of the license has made sales under the license for ninety consecutive business days (exclusive of business days the establishment is regularly closed) during the one year period immediately prior to the date of renewal. The City Council shall consider such licenses to be inactive.

**Section 4-44. Transfer of License.**

No license issued under this ordinance may be transferred without the approval of the City Council. Any transfer of stock of a corporate licensee is deemed to be a transfer of the license, and a transfer of stock without prior City Council approval is a ground for revocation of the license. An application to transfer a license shall be treated the same as an application for a new license, and all of the provisions of this code applying to applications for a license shall apply.

**Section 4-45. Investigation.**

- A. *Preliminary background and financial investigation.* On an initial application for a license, on an application for transfer of a license and, in the sound discretion of the City Council that it is in the public interest to do so, on an application for renewal of a license, the city shall conduct a preliminary background and financial investigation of the applicant or it may contract with the Commissioner of Public Safety for the investigation. The applicant shall pay with the application an investigation fee of \$500 which shall be in addition to any license fee. If the cost of the preliminary investigation is less than \$500, the unused balance shall be returned to the applicant. The results of the preliminary investigation shall be sent to the Commissioner of Public Safety if the application is for an on-sale intoxicating liquor license or an on-sale wine license.
- B. *Comprehensive background and financial investigation.* If the results of a preliminary investigation warrant, in the sound discretion of the City Council, a comprehensive background and financial investigation, the City Council may either conduct the investigation itself or contract with the Commissioner of Public Safety for the investigation. The investigation fee for this comprehensive background and financial investigation to be paid by the applicant shall be \$500, less any amount paid for the initial investigation if the investigation is to be conducted within the state, and \$10,000, less any amount paid for the initial investigation, if the investigation is required outside the state. The unused balance of the fee shall be returned to the applicant whether or not the application is denied. The fee shall be paid in advance of any investigation and the amount actually expended on the investigation shall not be refundable in the event the application is denied. The results of the comprehensive investigation shall be sent to the Commissioner of Public Safety if the application is for an on sale intoxicating liquor license or an on sale wine license.

**Section 4-46. Hearing and Issuance.**

The City Council shall investigate all facts set out in the application and not investigated in the preliminary or comprehensive background and financial investigations. Opportunity shall be given to any person to be heard for or against the granting of the license. After the investigation and hearing, the City Council shall in its sound discretion grant or deny the application. No license shall become effective until the proof of financial security has been approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

**Section 4-47. Restrictions on Issuance.**

- A. Each license shall be issued only to the applicant for the premises described in the application.
- B. Not more than one license may be directed or indirectly issued within the city to any one person.
- C. No license shall be granted or renewed for operation on any premises on which taxes, assessments, utility charges, service charges or other financial claims of the city are delinquent and unpaid.
- D. No license shall be issued for any place or any business ineligible for a license under state law.
- E. No license may be issued to any person who is not a resident of the state. If the applicant is a corporation, all of the shareholders shall be residents of the state. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any existing license existing on the effective date of this chapter or to the renewal of an existing license.

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- F. No license shall be granted within 500 feet of any school or church. The distance is to be measured from the closest side of the church to the closest side of the structure on the premises within which liquor is to be sold.

### **Section 4-48. Conditions of License.**

The failure of a licensee to meet any one of the conditions of the license specified below shall result in a suspension of the license until the condition is met.

- A. Within 90 days after employment, every person selling or serving liquor in an establishment which has an "on-sale" license shall receive training regarding the selling or serving of liquor to customers. The training shall be provided by an organization approved by the City Council. Proof of training shall be provided by the licensee.
- B. Every licensee is responsible for the conduct of the place of business and the conditions of sobriety and order in it. The act of any employee on the licensed premises is deemed the act of the licensee as well, and the licensee shall be liable to all penalties provided by this ordinance and the law equally with the employee.
- C. Every licensee shall allow any peace officer, health officer, city employee, or any other person designated by the City Council to conduct compliance checks and to otherwise enter, inspect and search the premises of the licensee during business hours and after business hours during the time when customers remain on the premises without a warrant.
- D. No on-sale establishment shall display liquor to the public during hours when the sale of liquor is prohibited.
- E. Compliance with financial responsibility requirements of state law and of this ordinance is a continuing condition of any license.

### **Section 4-49. Hours and Days of Sale.**

- A. The hours of operation and days of sale shall be those set by M. S. § 340A. 504, as it may be amended from time to time.
- B. No person shall consume nor shall any on-sale licensee permit any consumption of intoxicating liquor or 3.2 percent malt liquor in an on-sale licensed premises more than 30 minutes after the time when a sale can legally occur.
- C. No on-sale licensee shall permit any glass, bottle or other container containing intoxicating liquor or 3.2 percent malt liquor to remain upon any table, bar, stool or other place where customers are served, more than 30 minutes after the time when a sale can legally occur.
- D. No person, other than the licensee and any employee, shall remain on the on-sale licensed premises more than 30 minutes after the time when a sale can legally occur.
- E. Any violation of any condition of this section may be grounds for revocation or suspension of the license.

### **Section 4-50. Minors on Premises.**

- A. No person under the age of 18 years may be able to sell or serve intoxicating liquors or 3.2 percent malt liquor.
- B. No person under the age of 21 years may enter a licensed establishment except to work, consume meals on premises that qualify as a restaurant, or attend social functions that are held in a portion of the premises where liquor is not sold.

**Section 4-51. Restrictions on Purchase and Consumption.**

No person shall mix or prepare liquor for consumption in any public place of business unless it has a license to sell on-sale, or a permit from the Commissioner of Public Safety under the provisions of M. S. § 3401.414, as it may be amended from time to time, which has been approved by the City Council, and no person shall consume liquor in any such place.

**Section 4-52. Suspension and Revocation.**

- A. The City Council shall either suspend for a period not to exceed 60 days or revoke any liquor license upon finding that the licensee has failed to comply with any applicable statute, regulation or provision of this ordinance relating to liquor, as provided in (B). Except in cases of lapse of proof of financial responsibility, no suspension or revocation shall take effect until the licensee has been afforded an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, M. S. §§ 14.57 to 14.70, as it may be amended from time to time. The City Council may act as the hearing body under that act, or it may contract with the Office of Hearing Examiners for a hearing officer.
- B. The following are the minimum periods of suspension or revocation which shall be imposed by the City Council for violations of the provisions of this chapter or M. S. Chapter 340A, as it may be amended from time to time or any rules promulgated under that Chapter as they may be amended from time to time. Revocations shall occur within 60 days following a violation for which the revocation is imposed.
- C. For commission of a felony related to the licensed activity, sale of alcoholic beverages while the license is under suspension, sale of intoxicating liquor where the only license is for 3.2 percent malt liquor, or violation of § 112.04, the license shall be revoked.
- D. The license shall be suspended by the City Council after a finding under (A) that the licensee has failed to comply with any applicable statute, rule, or provision of this chapter for at least the minimum periods as follows:
- E. For the first violation within any three year period, at least one day suspension in addition to any criminal or civil penalties which may be imposed.
- F. For a second violation within any three year period, at least three consecutive days suspension in addition to any criminal or civil penalties which may be imposed.
- G. For the third violation within any three year period, at least seven consecutive days suspension in addition to any criminal or civil penalties which may be imposed.
- H. For a fourth violation within any three year period, the license shall be revoked.
- I. The City Council shall select the day or days during which the license will be suspended.
- J. Lapse of required proof of financial responsibility shall effect an immediate suspension of any license issued pursuant to this ordinance or state law without further action of the City Council. Notice of cancellation or lapse of a current liquor liability policy shall also constitute notice to the licensee of the impending suspension of the license. The holder of a license who has received notice of lapse of required insurance or of suspension or revocation of a license may request a hearing thereon and, if a request is made in writing to the City Administrator, a hearing before the City Council shall be granted within ten days. Any suspension under this paragraph shall continue until the Council determines that the financial responsibility requirements of state law and this ordinance have again been met.
- K. The provisions of Section 4-59 pertaining to administrative penalty may be imposed in addition to or in lieu of any suspension or revocation under this ordinance.

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Sections 4-53--4-58. Reserved.

### ARTICLE III. PENALTIES

#### Section 4-59. Penalties.

- A. Any person violating the provisions of this chapter or M. S. Chapter 340A, as it may be amended from time to time or any rules promulgated under that Chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished as provided by law.
- B. The City Council shall impose a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 for each violation of M. S. Chapter 340A and of this ordinance as provided by the minimum schedule of presumptive civil penalties. These civil penalties shall be in addition to any criminal penalties imposed under (A) or any suspension or revocation imposed under Section 52. Conviction of a violation in a court of law is not required in order for the City Council to impose the civil penalty. A hearing under the Administrative Procedures Act, M. S. § § 14.57 to 14.70, as it may be amended from time to time, is not required before the penalty is imposed, but the City Council shall hold a hearing on the proposed violation and the proposed penalty and hear any person who wishes to speak. Non-payment of the penalty is grounds for suspension or revocation of the license. The following is the minimum schedule of presumptive civil penalties in addition to any suspensions which must be imposed unless the license is revoked:
  - C. For the first violation within any three year period, \$500.
  - D. For the second violation within any three year period, \$1,000.
  - E. For the third and subsequent violations within any three year period, \$2,000 for each violation.
- F. The term "violation" as used in this section and in Section 22 includes any and all violations of the provisions of this chapter, or of M. S. Chapter 340A, as it may be amended from time to time or any rules promulgated under that Chapter as they may be amended from time to time. The number of violations shall be determined on the basis of the history of violations for the preceding three year period.

(Ord. 16-2005, 11/15/05)