

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Common Council of the City of Ashland will meet as the Committee of the Whole on May 5, 2020 immediately following the City Council meeting which begins at 5:30 PM in the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers.

The following items will be considered:

1. Roll Call
2. Council President's Report
3. Administrator's Report
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Committee Updates
6. Discussion Items
 - A. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Request to Lower and/or Waive License Renewals Fees for Alcohol Beverage Facilities, Amusement Facilities, and Operator's Licenses**
 - B. **Discussion with Council about process and procedure when complaints are filed against officers of the Police Department.**
7. Adjournment

The City of Ashland does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, age or disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities.

NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, the City of Ashland will accommodate the needs of disabled individuals or individuals with limited English proficiency through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Denise Oliphant at 715-682-7071 (not a TDD telephone number) or FAX: 715-682-7048

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Request to Lower and/or Waive License Renewals Fees for Alcohol Beverage Facilities, Amusement Facilities, and Operator's Licenses

RECOMMENDATION: Form a resolution to be valid through December 31, 2020 to allow for future discussion and determination

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Clerk

CLEARANCES: Council President

EXHIBITS:

1. Request from Ashland Bayfield County Tavern League
2. League of WI Municipalities Reducing Alcohol Beverage Licensing Fees in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic, April 21, 2020

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Clerk's office received a request letter from Nancy Sztynodor of the Ashland Bayfield County Tavern League, asking for Council to consider lowering or waiving the renewal licensing fees for local bars and taverns. Please refer to the attached letter.

The Clerk has been in contact with other Clerks throughout the State to see if any other municipality of equivalent population (7000 to 10,000) has made a determination. To date, there are no other communities who are forgoing or lowering the renewal fees. The reasoning behind these decisions is the fact that these licenses are good through June 30, 2021, and it is with anticipation that these businesses will be reopened before the end of 2020.

2019-2020 Revenues:

Operator's Licenses \$ 5,000 (Bartenders, retail cashiers)
Alc Bev Licenses \$30,000 (Retail, Bars, and Restaurants)
Coin Operated License \$ 3,300 (Gaming or jukebox)

If Council chooses to allow the State's minimum licensing requirements, the anticipated amount of revenue for Class B Combination only licenses would be reduced from approximately \$17,500 to \$1550.

Options for Council to consider may be: 1- to allow the minimum payment allowed by the State for the 2019-2020 renewal year; 2- allow businesses to pay a reduced rate for the 2019-2020 renewal year; 3- allow businesses to pay half of the current rate by June 30, 2020 with the remaining due on December 31, 2020 for

the 2019-2020 renewal year, or as Council determines.

It is the recommendation of the Clerk's office to form a resolution to be valid through December 31, 2020 and to be revisited at that time by Council to either extend or make any further decision, allowing businesses' alcohol beverage license renewals at a determined reduced rate for as Council wishes.

Dear Ashland City Councilors,

I am writing on behalf of all liquor license holders in the City of Ashland. First, let me say, we understand the City is suffering a financial hardship in this unprecedented time.

As you all are aware The Restaurants and Bars in Ashland have been shut down since 5pm on March 17th. Governor Evers latest Extension will put us closed until May 26th the Tuesday **AFTER** Memorial Day. That will be a total of 70 days, including St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, and the season starting Memorial Day weekend. We were all left with bills and payroll and no income to pay them.

Some of us have been able to do Carryout orders, but this is nowhere near enough revenue to keep our businesses going. Unfortunately, not all liquor license holders have food forcing them to be shut down completely.

Considering these issues, I am asking on behalf of your small business community that the City of Ashland consider placing on an upcoming agenda the following items:

- Lowering the renewal of existing class b liquor license to \$50, the lowest amount allowed by state statute.
- Waive the renewal fee for class b beer license
- Waive the renewal fee for any amusement license that your municipality may have.
- Waive renewal fees for existing operators license
- Waive the renewal fee for any municipal business or cabaret license

This may not seem like a lot of money to you, but every little bit helps to our small struggling businesses in Ashland. Thank you for your time, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Nancy Sztynodor

Stagecoach Bar & Grill

Ashland Bayfield County Tavern League



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Reducing Alcohol Beverage Licensing Fees in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

League of Wisconsin Municipalities

April 21, 2020

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities has received many questions relating to whether municipalities may reduce alcohol beverage licensing fees for the upcoming 2020 licensing renewal period or take other steps to help restaurants and bars hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting “Safer-at-Home” order.

Reducing Licensing Fees. Municipal governing bodies may reduce alcohol beverage licensing fees for the 2020 licensing renewal period. Licensing fees are determined locally but must be within the maximum and minimum ranges specified by state law.

Maximum and Minimum license fees under state law:

Class “A” beer – no state maximum or minimum; the amount is determined by the municipality

Class “B” beer -- \$100 maximum; no minimum

“Class A” liquor -- \$500 maximum; \$50 minimum

“Class B” liquor -- \$500 maximum; \$50 minimum

Reserve “Class B” liquor renewal -- \$500 maximum; \$50 minimum

“Class C” wine license -- \$100 maximum; no minimum

A community could, at its discretion, reduce the 2020 renewal fees for Class “A” beer, Class “B” beer, and “Class C” wine to zero. The fees for “Class A” liquor, “Class B” liquor, and Reserve “Class B” liquor renewal licenses could be reduced to \$50 each. Restaurants and bars typically hold Class B licenses and restaurants without an intoxicating liquor license may have a Class C wine license. Class A licenses are typically held by stores and sell for consumption off premise.

In communities that set license fees by ordinance, governing bodies wishing to reduce fees will need to adopt an ordinance modifying the alcohol beverage licensing renewal fees for the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 licensing year. In communities with ordinances specifying that fees are amended by resolution of the governing body, the governing body will need to adopt a resolution modifying the fees.

Waiving Late Fees for Alcohol Beverage Renewal Applications. Another step communities might consider taking to provide partial relief to restaurants and bars hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic is to waive any late fees the municipality imposes when applicants file their alcohol beverage renewal applications after the deadline for submittal.

SUBJECT: Discussion with Council about process and procedure when complaints are filed against officers of the Police Department.

RECOMMENDATION: NA

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Police Department

CLEARANCES: Mayor
Council President.

EXHIBITS:

FINANCIAL IMPACT: NA

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Chief of Police would like to address the council about the procedures involved in receiving a complaint about a police officer or the Chief himself. Discussion of what the role of the Police and Fire Commission has with a complaint and how it is addressed. The Chief believes it is important for the City Council to be informed as to the process and why it is conducted in the manner it is.