

ORDINANCE NO. 981

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO alcoholic beverages; adding bottle clubs to license procedures; to harmonize with state law; to repeal conflicting ordinances and sections; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF GOTHENBURG, NEBRASKA:

Section 1. The City of Gothenburg's Code of Ordinances is revised to read as follows regarding alcoholic beverages, bottle clubs and licenses:

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; LICENSES; CITY POWERS AND DUTIES.

(A) The City Council is authorized to regulate by ordinance, not inconsistent with the Nebraska Liquor Control Act, the business of all retail, bottle club, craft brewery, and microdistillery licensees carried on within the corporate limits of the city.
(Neb. RS 53-134.03)

(B) During the period of 45 days after the date of receipt by mail or electronic delivery from the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission notice and a copy of an application for a new license to sell alcoholic liquor at retail, a craft brewery license, or a microdistillery license, the City Council may make and submit to the Commission recommendations relative to the granting or refusal to grant the license to the applicant.
(Neb. RS 53-131)

(C) The City Council, with respect to licenses within the corporate limits of the city, has the following powers, functions, and duties with respect to retail, bottle club, craft brewery, and microdistillery licenses:

(1) To cancel or revoke for cause retail, craft brewery, or microdistillery licenses to sell or dispense alcoholic liquor or bottle club licenses issued to persons for premises within its jurisdiction, subject to the right of appeal to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission;

(2) To enter or to authorize any law enforcement officer to enter at any time upon any premises licensed under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act to determine whether any provision of the Act, any rule or regulation adopted and promulgated pursuant to the Act, or any ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulation adopted by the City Council has been or is being violated, and at that time examine the premises of the licensee in connection with such determination. Any law enforcement officer who determines that any provision of the Act, any rule or regulation adopted and promulgated pursuant to the Act, or any ordinance, resolution,

rule, or regulation adopted by the local governing body has been or is being violated shall report such violation in writing to the Executive Director of the Commission:

(a) Within 30 days after determining that such violation has occurred;

(b) Within 30 days after the conclusion of an ongoing police investigation; or

(c) Within 30 days after the verdict in a prosecution related to such an ongoing police investigation if the prosecuting attorney determines that reporting such violation prior to the verdict would jeopardize such prosecution, whichever is later;

(3) To receive a signed complaint from any citizen within its jurisdiction that any provision of the Act, any rule or regulation adopted and promulgated pursuant to the Act, or any ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulation relating to alcoholic liquor has been or is being violated and to act upon these complaints in the manner provided in the Act;

(4) To receive retail, bottle club, craft brewery, and microdistillery license fees as provided in Neb. RS 53-124 and 53-124.01 and pay the same, after the license has been delivered to the applicant, to the City Treasurer;

(5) To examine or cause to be examined any applicant or any retail, bottle club, craft brewery, or microdistillery licensee upon whom notice of cancellation or revocation has been served as provided in the Act, to examine or cause to be examined the books and records of any applicant or licensee, except as otherwise provided for bottle club licensees under state law, and to hear testimony and to take proof for its information in the performance of its duties. For purposes of obtaining any of the information desired, the City Council may authorize its agent or attorney to act on its behalf;

(6) To cancel or revoke on its own motion any license if, upon the same notice and hearing as provided in this code or Neb. RS 53-134.04, it determines that the licensee has violated any of the provisions of the Nebraska Liquor Control Act or any valid and subsisting ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulation duly enacted, adopted, and promulgated relating to alcoholic liquor. The order of cancellation or revocation may be appealed to the Commission within 30 days after the date of the order by filing a notice of appeal with the Commission. The Commission shall handle the appeal in the manner provided for hearing on an application in Neb. RS 53-133; and

(7) Upon receipt from the Commission of the notice and copy of application as provided in Neb. RS 53-131, to fix a time and place for a hearing at which the City Council shall receive evidence, either orally or by affidavit from the applicant and any other person, bearing upon the propriety of the issuance of a license. Notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be published in a legal newspaper in or of general circulation in the city, one time not less than seven and not more than 14 days before the time of the hearing. The notice shall include, but not be limited to, a statement that all persons desiring to give evidence before the

City Council in support of or in protest against the issuance of the license may do so at the time of the hearing. The hearing shall be held not more than 45 days after the date of receipt of the notice from the Commission, and after the hearing City Council shall cause to be recorded in the minute record of its proceedings a resolution recommending either issuance or refusal of the license. The City Clerk shall mail to the Commission by first class mail, postage prepaid, a copy of the resolution which shall state the cost of the published notice, except that failure to comply with this provision shall not void any license issued by the Commission. If the Commission refuses to issue such a license, the cost of publication of notice shall be paid by the Commission from the security for costs.

(Neb. RS 53-134)

(D) (1) When the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission mails or delivers to the City Clerk a retail, craft brewery, or microdistillery license issued or renewed by the Commission, the Clerk shall deliver the license to the licensee upon receipt from the licensee of proof of payment of:

(a) The license fee if by the terms of Neb. RS 53-124 the fee is payable to the City Treasurer;

(b) Any fee for publication of notice of hearing before the City Council upon the application for the license;

(c) The fee for publication of notice of renewal, if applicable, as provided in Neb. RS 53-135.01; and

(d) Occupation taxes, if any, imposed by the city, except that Class J retail licensees shall not be subject to occupation taxes.

(2) Notwithstanding any ordinance or charter power to the contrary, the city shall not impose an occupation tax on the business of any person, firm, or corporation licensed under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act and doing business within the corporate limits of the city in any sum which exceeds two times the amount of the license fee required to be paid under the Act to obtain that license.

(Neb. RS 53-132)

Section 2. Any other ordinance or code section passed and approved prior to passage, approval, and publication or posting of this ordinance and in conflict with its provisions is repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage, approval, and publication or posting as required by law.

Passed and approved this 18th day of June, 2019.



(SEAL)

Joyce E. Hudson
Mayor, Joyce Hudson

Brandi Kloepping
Clerk, Brandi Kloepping