

Explanation for Proposed Changes to Chapter 4 Alcohol Sections of the La Crosse Municipal Code – March 2019.

19-0060. *AN ORDINANCE to amend Sections 4-46(a) and (b), and to repeal Sections 4-110(a) and (d), and to renumber and amend subsections 4-110(b) and (c), and renumber subsections 4-110(e) and (f), and to amend 4-72 and 4-142 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse to make technical changes regarding operator's license and licenses required.*

The technical changes relate to inconsistencies and out-of-date language between beer and liquor in our current code; the intent is to make them the same, conform to state law and clarify confusing language.

The amendments to sec. 4-72 and sec. 4-142 remove ambiguous language and add language requiring only one license for premises in direct connection and contiguous so long as they are on one land parcel. This allows establishments with doorways/archways between buildings to operate under one license but will prohibit a single owner of buildings within a block (on separate parcels) from opening up the walls in between multiple buildings and operating the entire block under one license.

19-0061. *AN ORDINANCE to amend various sections of Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse regarding Temporary Class "B"/"Class B" (picnic) licenses.*

There are differences between temporary beer/wine (picnic) licenses and annual beer and liquor licenses. We propose to separate them and create a new article for temporary licenses.

We are correcting inconsistencies in language within the temporary beer/wine section.

Upper Hixon Park (approved by Park Board in Sept 2018) and Burns Park (approved by Park Board in Jan 2019) are being added as eligible parks for temporary alcohol licenses.

19-0062. *AN ORDINANCE to create Secs. 4-19 and 4-83 and to amend Secs. 4-43 and 4-44 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse regarding active use of an alcohol license and commencing and discontinuing operations involving an alcohol license.*

Current code language prohibits a licensee from going inactive for a period exceeding 90 days. There have been occurrences of discontinuing business; however, we have found it difficult to enforce with current language. This ordinance creates a definition for active use of a license and allows the clerk to provide written notice upon complaint or reliable evidence.

There is a quota on Combination "Class B" licenses, and there is a history of Council legislation supporting active use of licenses.

If an establishment anticipates a discontinuance of sales exceeding 90 days, they shall provide in writing the specific dates of closure with their application. The Council shall approve or deny said request when granting the license.