

LIQUOR ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2001
9:00 A.M. – CITY HALL

Pursuant to due notice and call, the City Council met in the Chambers of City Hall on Thursday, October 4, 2001 for the purpose of taking public comments regarding Amendments to the proposed Liquor Ordinance. Present at the hearing was Mayor Darrell Swanson, Councilmembers Sandy Eliason, Chuck Miller (who arrived at 9:25 A.M.), Irene Schultz and Dean Swanson. Also present was City Administrator Tom Swenson, City Attorney Paul Sandelin, Clerk/Treasurer Darlene Roach and Lake Country Echo Reporter Betty Ryan. There were four individuals in the audience. (Sign in sheet attached as a permanent part of the record.)

Mayor Swanson called the public hearing to order and stated that City Attorney Sandelin would review the proposed changes to the Ordinance. After review of the Ordinance by Attorney Sandelin, the meeting would be open to the public for questions and comments.

City Attorney Sandelin stated that each of the liquor license holders were mailed a copy of the proposed Ordinance Amendments prior to the meeting. Each proposed change was indicated with an underline or a strikethrough. Mayor Swanson commented that the City Council has had three working sessions to review the proposed Ordinance Amendments so each of the Councilmembers were familiar with the changes. City Attorney Sandelin reviewed each page where a change in the Ordinance was being made. An explanation for the change was also presented. Some of the major changes include a.) adding a definition of a general manager; b.) a requirement for enhanced background investigations including a financial investigation at a cost of \$500 with financial data blacked out per requirements of the Data Practices Act; c.) an established set of presumptive civil penalties for violations and how they are counted in a three year period; d.) how changes in management are handled; e.) how outstanding zoning violations or other City Code violations affect renewals; f.) change in time from twenty minutes to thirty minutes for the consumption of alcohol purchased prior to closing after which only bona fide employees are allowed on the premise; g.) change in insurance standards; h.) how a lottery system for issuance of forfeited licenses would be handled; and i.) the requirement to operate 48 weeks in a calendar year except in the case of a fire or natural disaster.

Roger Roy of Channel Liquors asked if the lottery system should also be applied to On-Sale Licenses. It was the consensus of the Council that this should also be addressed. Kathy Murrer of the Cedar Chest expressed a concern about the requirement for businesses to be open forty-eight weeks a year and what financial implication this would place on the license holder. The Council did not feel they were making financial decisions by imposing this requirement. Only so many licenses are available and they should be utilized year round. There are no seasonal licenses and a referendum would be required before any could be issued. Attorney Lonny Thomas, representing several business owners, addressed the Council and agreed with Kathy Murrer. He also had a

concern about the lottery system, however further explanation by the Council clarified this concern. Kathy Murrer asked about golf courses and how they could stay open year round. This is currently not an issue in Crosslake since Crosslake Golf Course retains a 3.2 beer license which is not limited under Ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding the off-sale license sites which do not appear to be active and whether a separate area should be required between the Off-Sale and On-Sale area. Chief Hartman stated there would be an advantage to segregating the two by way of a locked door in order to clearly determine that the Off-Sale is closed at 10:00 P.M. It was the consensus of the Council that this should be included in the ordinance. Kathy Murrer inquired about whether her female bartender could have someone in the establishment with her for security reasons beyond the thirty-minute requirement. Chief Hartman stated that this would not be a problem as long as the reason for the person being on the premise was for the purpose of security.

There being no further comments, MOTION 10PH2-01-01 WAS MADE BY CHUCK MILLER AND SECONDED BY SANDY ELIASON TO ADJOURN THIS PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:55 A.M.

Recorded and transcribed by,



Darlene J. Roach
Clerk/Treasurer

