

Liquor License Application Process

All liquor license applications are made through the City Clerk's Office and must be approved by the City Council.

On-Sale Licenses

There are several types of liquor licenses for on-sale consumption: 3.2% malt liquor, wine, and intoxicating liquor. Most restaurants have the intoxicating liquor license which allows you to serve any type of alcohol. Some of the smaller restaurants have a wine and 3.2% malt liquor, which allows them to serve wine and strong beer. A 3.2% malt liquor license permits serving only 3.2% malt liquor, which is the lower-alcohol beer and flavored malt liquor (Smirnoffs and hard lemonade, etc.) If you apply for an intoxicating liquor license, there is a separate license for Sunday sales (this is a state law requirement that Sunday license is separate).

Off-Sale Licenses

There are 2 types of off-sale license (for consumption of alcohol off the premises): 3.2% malt off-sale liquor and an off-sale intoxicating liquor license. 3.2% malt liquor may be sold in stores or bars that sell other products, but strong beer, wine and liquor may only be sold in "exclusive liquor stores."

Liquor License Fees

The new license processing fee is a one-time fee.

The liquor licenses are issued for a term of July 1 – June 30. If an application is made in the middle of the year, the license fee is pro-rated per month through June 30.

A "Buyers Card" must be applied for through the State Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division; an application will be included with the city liquor license packet.

License Approval

The City Council considers each application on its own merit, and a background check is completed on each of the applicants/owners. The Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, and the application is due 10 days prior to the meeting. This would include completed application, the license and processing fee, and a certificate of liquor liability insurance. If the license is denied, the license fee is refunded but the processing fee is not refunded.

Other steps:

- City Planning Department regarding the zoning of the building: 457-8250
- City Inspections Department regarding building code requirements: 457-8231
- Minnesota Health Department for food and beverage licenses: 651-201-4505
- Send Buyer's Card application and fee to Dept. of Public Safety