



Cost of Liquor License To Double

by Misty DeLashmutt
 Courier Editor

The price of a Friday night beer is likely to increase in the future if bar and restaurant owners pass the cost of a new city occupation tax down to consumers.

The city council adopted a new ordinance Monday night doubling the cost of a liquor license for businesses selling or serving alcoholic beverages in the city limits.

The occupation tax was created to raise revenue for the general fund of the city.

Currently, the city collects only the state portion which is remitted to the school district.

The new tax will double the current cost paid for a state license.

For example, if a business is required to carry a \$100 Class "A" license, the business will pay the \$100 cost to the state and an additional \$100 occupational tax to the city of Minden.

The new tax will take effect after legal publication and will be levied, assessed and prorated on a daily basis until May 1, 2011.

Also discussed was agenda item #6, the development and implementation of a formal procedure for the processing of claims.

A claim for \$91.80 was submitted to the city by Leroy Erpelding for alleged damage to an underground sprinkler system head by a city snowplow.

Erpelding's claim was included in the consent agenda packets distributed to the council at the prior May 17 meeting.

Councilman Ted Griess led the discussion, stating his opinion that all claims should be deferred directly to the city's insurance carrier and following the insurance carrier's report, the city would have the opinion to act or not to act on the claim.

City Attorney Lieske advised the council that from a legal standpoint, deferring the claim directly to the insurance carrier would be considered "taking no action" and after a year the party could withdraw the claim and file suit against the city.

After discussion, the council decided upon a procedure in which claims will be deferred directly to the insurance carrier, and following the insurance carrier response, the city will act on the claim.

A motion by Griess directing the city attorney to draft a resolution outlining
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the city's new claim procedure passed unopposed.

Council action regarding Erpelding's claim was tabled.

Brian Reetz, representing the Groundwater Foundation, gave a power point presentation outlining the importance of groundwater preservation and protection.

The Groundwater Foundation is launching a new campaign, "Let's Keep It Clean!" in the city of Minden.

The overall goal of the campaign is to empower the people of Nebraska to play a key part in protecting their groundwater.

The Groundwater Foundation staff will be participating in city-wide events and will be presenting to local businesses and organizations in the future.

In other business, the city council:

- Amended Chapter 58 of the city code repealing the section relating to charitable solicitation and amending licenses for peddlers and transient merchants.

- began the first review of budget requests from the various city departments.

- set a date for a special budget workshop. The workshop will be Tuesday, July 15 at 4:00 p.m.

- went into closed session to discuss possible pending litigation concerning various parties associated with the transmission line.