

CITY OF LA VISTA
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORT
AUGUST 19, 2025 AGENDA

Subject:	Type:	Submitted By:
DISCUSSION – ALCOHOL ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY	RESOLUTION ORDINANCE ◆ RECEIVE/FILE	HEATHER BULLER RECREATION DIRECTOR

SYNOPSIS

The City's current policy, Council Policy Statement 107 – Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages on Municipal Property, allows the *sale and consumption* of alcoholic beverages on municipal property only for non-profits and private parties at the Community Center.

Upon review, staff has identified conflicts between this policy and other City policies, as well as a growing number of requests to allow alcohol in other locations. Staff is seeking City Council guidance on expanding alcohol permissions to include facility rentals, park shelters, and other municipal properties.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this discussion.

RECOMMENDATION

Discussion and general direction regarding permitting alcohol on municipal property.

BACKGROUND

Over the past couple of months, the City has received increased requests from residents and organizations to serve or sell alcohol at municipal properties, specifically sports fields, park shelters, and Central Park Clubhouse.

When researching the appropriate process for these requests, staff found several policies that conflict with each other regarding alcohol consumption on municipal property.

To address community interest, reduce confusion, and ensure compliance with Nebraska Liquor License Laws, staff recommends expanding allowances for the consumption of alcoholic beverages on municipal property for: facility rentals (Community Center, Central Park Clubhouse, and The Link), shelter rentals, field rentals, and parks. If allowed, this expansion would include clear restrictions and permitting processes aligned with state liquor regulations and best practices for safety and public welfare.

Based on Council's direction, staff will work to clean up policies and processes to adhere to the State of Nebraska Liquor License Laws.

Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages on Municipal Property

It shall be the policy of the City Council of the City of La Vista that the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on municipal property shall be closely restricted.

A permit by the City Council shall be required for the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages on municipal property. A permit may be issued to a non-profit public service organization, based in La Vista. The permit shall be limited to one annual fundraising activity per year, per organization. Proceeds from any fundraising activity must be expended exclusively within the City of La Vista for the general betterment of its citizen (examples of eligible events are La Vista Days Beer Garden, La Vista Volunteer Fire Department Water Fights).

Requests for a permit shall be submitted in writing to the City Clerk at least 30 days prior to the scheduled activity and shall include the name of the organization, the activity for which the permit is sought, and the date, time and place of the activity for which the permit is requested. Additionally, in cases where the activity is not a City of La Vista sponsored event, the applicant must identify compliance with all State of Nebraska Liquor License Laws for the sale of alcoholic beverages (e.g. application for a Special Designated Permit).

Private parties may apply to the city Council for permission to serve alcohol on municipal property only when the following conditions are met:

1. Alcoholic beverages are distributed by a caterer/bartender licensed by the State of Nebraska to sell/serve alcoholic beverages offsite.
2. An off-duty police officer is contracted with for security and is present during the event.
3. A \$200 refundable security/damage deposit is due upon approval of the permit for any event at the Community Center.

Requests for a permit shall be submitted in writing to the City Clerk and shall include the name of the individual, the activity for which the permit is sought, and the date, time and place of the activity for which the permit is requested.

Prior to the approving a permit for a private party the City Council shall consider the following:

1. Will issuance of the permit and the presence of alcohol unreasonably interfere in the public's enjoyment of municipal facilities such as a park or the Community Center?
2. Will issuance of the permit and the presence of alcohol present an undesirable atmosphere for the youth of La Vista at municipal facilities such as a park or the Community Center?

Policy, Rules and Regulations for Use of the Community Center

Administration

The administration, scheduling and maintenance of the Community Center shall be the responsibility of the City of La Vista Recreation Department.

The scheduling and determination of acceptability of groups and functions shall be the responsibility of the Recreation Director or his designee. Any problems arising from there shall be directed to the City Administrator for final resolution.

Fees shall be reviewed annually by the Recreation Advisory Committee and approved by the Mayor and City Council.

Community Center Usage

The primary purpose of the Community Center is to provide highly structured recreation programs for all citizens of La Vista, plus provide the opportunity for individuals and groups to use the facility through unstructured open recreation. The facility will be scheduled to facilitate both of these purposes.

The Recreation Director, with recommendation of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, shall establish the policies and procedures for use of the facility, along with the necessary fees, by individual residents of the City of La Vista and in limited cases use by non-residents of the City of La Vista. These policies and procedures shall be in written form and available to the public upon request.

A secondary purpose of the Community Center is to allow groups to rent the facility for special events. Request for use of the facility for special events will be considered but will not generally preempt highly structured recreation programs. Depending on the attendance at unstructured open recreation programs, special events may be given priority.

The scheduling of activities at the Community Center shall adhere to the following priority schedule:

1. Recreation groups under the sponsorship or direction of the Recreation Department.
2. Any Department, Board or Commission of the City of La Vista.
3. Service Organizations; such as Schools, Scouts, 4-H, Jaycees, Churches, Optimist, Sports Clubs, Pet Clubs and other service organizations serving the La Vista area.
4. Organizations and/or individuals whose activities are recreational or educational in nature.
5. Individuals or groups who wish to use the Community Center for fund raising activities in which the proceeds benefit the citizens of La Vista.
6. Individuals who wish to use the Community Center, for activities such as bridal and baby showers, reunions, and receptions.
7. Organizations and/or individuals whose activities are profitable in nature.

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The City of La Vista prohibits the use of the Community Center for political activities except for use as a polling place or open public debates sponsored by non-partisan organizations.

The Recreation Director shall grant use of the Community Center in the order in which written applications are received in compliance with the above priorities, and such other administrative practices established for the purpose of managing the Community Center. When more than one group requests the use of the Community Center for the same time frame, La Vista residents will be given priority over non-resident groups.

The City reserves the right to locate said special events in the smaller meeting rooms if adequate space is available in these rooms.

Community Center Rules and Regulations

1. Every applicant who receives permission to use the Community Center shall, during the time of such use, be responsible for the preservation of law and order on the property.
2. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages shall be prohibited.
3. Possession of firearms/weapons shall be prohibited.
4. All raffles and games of chance must be pre-approved by the Chief of Police.
5. Reasonable equipment and special facility arrangements available at the Community Center and requested on the written application may be provided by the Recreation Director. No privately owned equipment or materials shall remain at the Community Center for any length of time.
6. Table and chairs may be set up by groups renting or using the Community Center and shall be taken down and placed in their original position after the activity.
7. All other areas of the Community Center shall be restored to an orderly condition, trash placed in proper personal property removed.
8. Users shall comply with all smoking, fire and other regulations.
9. Use of the Community Center by groups composed of minors (21 years of age and under) shall be granted only to adults who accept the responsibility for supervising the group throughout their activity.
10. Decorations shall be allowed under the following conditions; no nails, tacks or staples to be used on the walls, ceiling or equipment without the consent from the Recreation Director. Fire hoses or extinguishers shall not be covered by decorations or any obstructions placed so as to prohibit their use in case of emergency. Decorations shall be removed after use within such time as designated by the Recreation Director unless permission to leave them has been granted by the Recreation Director.
11. The placing of obstacles such as chairs, tables, benches, decorations, etc., which obstruct exit signs or doors shall not be permitted.
12. The burning of candles or any open flames is not permissible unless approved by the Recreation Director.
13. No animals, except those needed for assisting disabled individuals, shall be permitted in the Community Center unless approved by the Recreation Director.

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14. The installation or use of additional electric wiring or the use of electrical appliances on any of the Community Center electrical circuits shall be allowed only upon approval by the Recreation Director or his designee.
15. All activities must end by 10:00 p.m. unless special permission is obtained from the Recreation Director.
16. Thermostats shall not be adjusted.
17. Sponsoring groups shall be responsible for the conduct of their activity. Groups charged with breakage or mistreatment of the Center and/or its equipment shall be financially responsible and liable for such damages and shall be denied further use of the Community Center until a time is designated by the Recreation Director.
18. The entire Community Center is a tobacco free facility. Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the Community Center.
19. Food or drink will be permitted in areas designated by the Recreation Director.
20. Any groups not complying with all of the above rules and regulations pertaining to the Community Center's usage, shall forfeit usage of the building until a time is designated by the Recreation Director.

Community Center Fees

Security deposits shall be required of all rental groups and such security deposits shall be paid at time of reservations. Security deposits shall be returned the next week after the scheduled activity. This is provided that the user group has not inflicted any damage to the Community Center, and has fulfilled their responsibilities to clean up the area following their usage of it. The deposit may be forfeited, and the user may be billed for damages, which exceeds the deposit, if the cleanup responsibilities are not fulfilled, as stated in the rental agreement. Security deposits may be forfeited automatically if the user group does not inform the Community Center two (2) weeks in advance that the group will not be using the Center. This does not apply when an activity is cancelled due to weather.

All other fees shall be paid three (3) calendar days in advance of the scheduled event. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the cancellation of the group's reservation.

Fees shall be established by resolution of the City Council as a part of the City's Master Fee Schedule.

Facility Rental

The entire facility can be rented for special events. Interested individuals should contact the Community Center for information on the type of special events allowed. Fees shall be established by resolution of the City Council as a part of the City's Master Fee Schedule.

Deposits must be paid one (1) month in advance (if reservation date is less than a month away, deposit must be paid immediately).

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Racquetball/Walleyball Courts

The Community Center has two racquetball/walleyball courts. Use of the racquetball/walleyball courts is by reservation only. Fees shall be established by resolution of the City Council as a part of the City's Master Fee Schedule.

Residents and Non-Residents may reserve the courts at any time. If reserving for more than one session, payment must be made in advance for the next session. If reserving for consecutive weeks (as for leagues), payment for the entire season must be paid in advance of the season start date.

Courts are rented on the $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, (i.e., 12:30 to 1:30). Participants must bring their own equipment for racquetball. The Community Center does provide nets and balls for walleyball.