



**STAFF REPORT  
WEST ALLIS PLAN COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020  
6:00 PM  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**7. Ordinance to convert taverns, cocktail lounges, and alcohol Sales from special uses to permitted uses creating section 9.025 and amending sections 12.40, 12.41, and 12.43.**

**Overview & Zoning**

The Common Council has sponsored this draft ordinance (O-2020-0024) and is referring it to the Plan Commission for their consideration.

The ordinance converts “taverns and cocktail lounges” (like corner bars) and “alcohol sales (class A establishments like liquor stores)” from special uses to permitted uses.

The intent of the ordinance is to streamline the process for opening a new business, without losing oversight to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and surrounding neighborhoods in consideration of licensing an establishment.

- The Common Council would still have the option to require a public hearing (per section 9.025 RMC) to inform the public and neighbors of a new license proposal.
- While the process is simplified the Common Council may still require site and building improvements (site, landscaping and architectural improvements) that would be referred to Planning Commission as a condition of license issuance.

Previously there was a need to conduct two public hearings before two separate committees of the Common Council. One hearing for the zoning process (special use) and another for the license process (to exceed quota on class A/packaged establishments). Common Council recently eliminated self-imposed class A license quota at the July 2 meeting. The former process was redundant and confusing for applicants and the City alike.

With the passage of this ordinance the City seeks to simplify the process while maintaining the added value of site, landscaping and architectural review for properties that the Common Council deems in need of improvement.

Restaurants (with or without a liquor license) will continue to be considered special uses.

**Recommendation:** Common Council approval of the Ordinance to convert taverns, cocktail lounges, and alcohol Sales from special uses to permitted uses creating section 9.025 and amending sections 12.40, 12.41, and 12.43 (Public hearing scheduled for August 4, 2020).

