CURRENT CITY ALCOHOL SALES

Liquor & off-sale beer
Sun.....Noon-6 p.m.
Mon.-Fri. .....6 a.m.-11:45 p.m.
Sat.....6 a.m.-1 a.m. Sun.
On-sale beer
Sun.....4 -10 p.m.
Mon.-Fri. .....6 a.m.-11:45 p.m.
Sat.....6 a.m.-1 a.m. Sun.
Bottle club (bars, restaurants)
Sun.....4-10 p.m.
Mon.-Thurs. 6 a.m.-11:45 p.m.
Fri.....6 a.m.-1 a.m. Sat.
Sat.....6 a.m.-1 a.m. Sun.

On-sale beer is sold and consumed in a business. Off-sale beer is bought and taken from the business. Bottle club means the sale and consumption of alcohol in a business while package is when alcohol is bought and taken from the store.

Council introduces measure to expand times.

The city is two readings away from expanded alcohol sales.

At their March 1 meeting, the Gothenburg City Council introduced a proposal that would increase hours Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m.-1 a.m. (see box for current hours).

Sunday hours would expand to noon to 10 p.m. instead of 4-10 p.m.

Instead of different hours for the three types of businesses—restaurants, bars and stores— that sell alcohol, the council decided that businesses would have the same hours.

The proposal also allows for the sale of alcohol from 6 a.m., on New Year’s Eve, to 1 a.m. New Year’s Day, if the holiday is on Sunday.

Once a motion was made to introduce the measure, the council split votes which rarely happens.

Council members Jeff Kennedy and Jeff Whiting were for the proposal while Tim Strauser and Gary Fritch voted against.

Mayor Joyce Hudson was asked to break the tie which she did with an “aye” vote.

Whether to advance the proposal to second reading will be decided at the council’s March 15 meeting.

A “thumbs up” on third reading will make it law.

The request to increase hours of operation came to the council in January when Cherry Alger, owner of Pete’s Lounge, asked to serve drinks until 2 a.m.

She was joined by the owners of Bar W and Walker’s Steakhouse & Lounge.

State legislators passed a law last year that allows local governments to decide if businesses can serve drinks on their premises until that time.

Council members said “no” to the request but decided to look at expanded hours at the suggestion of Whiting.

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