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CITY COUNCIL UPDATES LIQUOR ORDINANCES AS AN ASSIST TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Rosemount City Council last night approved updates to the City's liquor regulations to ease the creation of breweries and similar businesses.

The new measures allow the City to issue licenses tied to breweries and micro distilleries, and to set appropriate fees for those licenses. New rules will also allow Sunday sales by breweries that fill containers called growlers that can be taken offsite, as recently permitted by a change in Minnesota law.

Other changes to the City Code are intended to bring the rules in line with what's newly permitted by state law, to clarify the existing language, and to make the process of applying for a related business less burdensome.

The Council's action follows measures it approved this spring to set the zoning rules in Rosemount for businesses tied to microbreweries and distilleries.

The City currently has no applications for these types of businesses. The changes will allow the City to market Rosemount to attract those businesses, which can add to employment and draw customers to the community.

"We're always looking to increase our market area for businesses," Council member Jeff Weisensel said during the meeting. "For anyone that's listening out there, if you have a friend or if you want to open up one of these businesses, Rosemount's open."

Businesses permitted include brewpubs, which are restaurants that operate their own brewery; taprooms, in which a brewery can sell its own beer; cocktail rooms, which are tied to micro distilleries; brew-on premise stores, which are other retailers that operate breweries; and wineries on farms.

“Mostly it’s small businesses that are getting into the beer business, similar to the wine industry,” Mayor Bill Droste said.

The popularity of custom beer and liquor products is increasingly seen as a benefit for economic development in the region. Several brewpubs have opened this year in the Twin Cities metro area. Next month, the Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount will launch a five-course Brewers and Beer Steward program, becoming the only school in Minnesota to offer training in brewery operations.

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