



500 West Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084
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CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: November 16, 2021

To: Mark F. Miller, City Manager

From: Robert J. Bruner, Assistant City Manager
M. Aileen Dickson, City Clerk

Subject: K-02a Future Council Agenda Item to Be Considered at the December 6, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting: Request to Repeal Ordinances: Chapter 68-Amusements and Recreation Places, Chapter 71-Auto Wash-Motor Vehicle Laundry, Chapter 96-Billiard Parlors, Pool Rooms, and Chapter 97-Coin-Operated Amusement Devices and Arcades; and Amend Chapter 60-Fees and Bonds Required - (Introduced by: Aileen Dickson, City Clerk)

History

Chapter 68-Amusements and Recreation Places: This ordinance regulates the operation of “places of amusement or recreation”, specifically roller-skating rinks, bowling alleys, swimming pools, pool rooms, billiard rooms, amusement parks, etc.

Under this chapter, owners of these establishments are required to obtain an Amusement License from the City Clerk’s Office annually. The application process includes submitting a completed application with the required attachments, and paying the license fee. The average fee paid by licensed businesses ranges from \$50 to \$128 annually, but many of these businesses also are required to obtain Coin-Operated Amusement licenses that have substantially higher fees associated with them.

The sections of the chapter that address regulations like decency and crowding are regulated in other chapters of the City Code and/or the Building Code and Fire Code. The application is routed to the Building Department, Fire Department, Treasurer’s Office, and Police Department. These departments have all indicated no objection to the repeal of the ordinance.

Chapter 71-Auto Wash-Motor Vehicle Laundry: This ordinance regulates the operation of car washes.

Under this chapter, owners of car washes are required to obtain a Car Wash License from the City Clerk’s Office annually. The application process includes submitting a completed application with the license fee of \$25.

The application is routed to the Building Department for inspection, and the Treasurer’s Office to verify that taxes and water bills are paid. Both of these functions are addressed in the Building Code, or in other chapters of the City Code, and the departments have indicated no objection to repeal of the ordinance.



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Chapter 96-Billiard Parlors, Pool Rooms: This ordinance is a companion ordinance to Chapter 97 and Chapter 68.

Under this chapter, licensees who have obtained licenses under Chapter 68 and Chapter 97 are required to comply with gambling laws and decency. There is no specific application for this chapter, as it refers to licenses obtained under Chapter 68 and Chapter 97.

Chapter 97-Coin-Operated Amusement Devices and Arcades: This ordinance regulates the operation of video games, pinball game, pool tables, bowling lanes, mechanical rides that are operated by inserting coins, tokens, cards, or any other form of payment. This includes video games in the lobbies of restaurants, arcades, club facilities with pay-to-play pool tables, and arcade rooms such as at bowling alleys.

Under this chapter, owners of facilities that offer coin-operated amusement devices as described are required to obtain a Coin-Operated Amusement Device License from the City Clerk’s Office annually. The application process includes submitting a completed application with the required attachments. The annual license fee varies depending on the number of devices. For the current list of licensees, the annual fees range from \$265 to \$5,000.

There are sections of the ordinance that address zoning, inspections, fire regulations, decency, gambling or other illegal behaviors. These issues are also addressed in other chapters of the City Code, in the Building Code or the Fire Code, or in State law. The application is routed to the Building Department, Fire Department, Police Department, and Treasurer’s Office. These departments have indicated no objection to repeal of the ordinance.

Chapter 60-Fees and Bonds Required

The amendments to Chapter 60 involve removing the fees associated with the business licenses described above. The fees associated with the above listed ordinances are as follows:

Amusement Devices (Chapter 97)	
Application	\$100.00
Coin-Operated Amusement Device – 2 to 5 units	\$100.00 each
Coin-Operated Amusement Device – More than 5 units	\$50.00 each
Rides Mechanical	
Per day	\$20.00
Annual Fee	\$100.00
Annual Fee: Amusement Place – Not otherwise specified	\$50.00
Animals (Chapter 68)	
Rides	
Per day	\$20.00
Annual Fee	\$100.00
Annual Fee: Riding Stables	\$10.00
Auction (Chapter 68)	\$100.00
Auction House (Chapter 68) – Annual Fee	\$100.00



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Bowling Alley (Chapter 96)	
Annual Fee	\$50.00
Plus – Each alley over one – Annual Fee	\$2.00
Carnivals (Chapter 68)	
1st day	\$100.00
Plus - Each Additional Day	\$20.00
Circus (Chapter 68)	
1 st day	\$100.00
Plus - Each additional day	\$20.00
Pool Room (Chapter 68)	
Annual Fee	\$50.00
Plus - Each table over one	\$5.00
Shows (Chapter 68):	Tent per day
	\$100.00
Skating Rink (Chapter 68): Annual Fee	
	\$100.00
Tennis Courts – Indoor (Chapter 68): Annual Fee	
	\$100.00
Theaters (Chapter 68)	
Annual Fee – Indoor	\$100.00
Annual Fee – Outdoor	\$100.00

At the March 8, 2021 Regular City Council meeting, City Council authorized the temporary suspension of the business license requirements for amusements and car washes in order to provide some financial relief to those businesses during the pandemic. With the effects of the pandemic still creating financial stress for small businesses in Troy, including those businesses required to obtain amusement licenses and car wash licenses, City Administration has examined the impact of repealing these chapters and determined it to be negligible. The benefits to these businesses, along with the cost-benefit analysis of administering these licenses, have led us to determine that these ordinances should be repealed.

Financial

Prior to the pandemic, revenue from all amusement license fees and car wash license fees totaled about \$15,000. In March, 2021, prior to City Council suspending the business licensing requirements for the 2021 licensing year, total revenue was about \$8,000. We expect that revenue going forward will be less than that considering the number of businesses that have closed or removed their amusement devices.

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that City Council repeal Chapter 68-Amusements and Recreation Places, Chapter 71-Auto Wash-Motor Vehicle Laundry, Chapter 96-Billiard Parlors, Pool Rooms, and Chapter 97-Coin-Operated Amusement Devices and Arcades; and Amend Chapter 60-Fees and Bonds Required

Legal Review

This item was submitted to the City Attorney for review pursuant to City Charter Section 3.17.