



Commission Agenda Item Request Form

MEETING DATE: JUNE 26, 2025

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ON OPTIONS FOR THE ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

AGENDA SECTION: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT: CITY COMMISSION

PREPARED BY:

RECOMMENDED ACTION: DISCUSSION ITEM

Summary

AT THE JOINT CITY/COUNTY MEETING STAFF WAS ASKED TO PLACE THE ALCOHOL ORDINANCE OPTIONS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE JUNE 26, 2025, COMMISSION MEETING.

ATTACHMENTS: ALCOHOL ORDINANCE, TIMELINES, 20 YEAR HISTORY OF ALCOHOL ORDINANCE, MAP.

REVIEWED BY CITY MANAGER: _____

ORDINANCE 2024-03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 “ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES” OF THE HIGH SPRINGS CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS FOR BUSINESSES HOLDING A BEVERAGE LICENSE, DERIVING LESS THAN 51 PERCENT OF THEIR REVENUE FROM THE SALE OF FOOD AND NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, WHO DESIRE TO BE SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION OUTSIDE OF THE HOURS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 10-2(d) OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION

WHEREAS, Chapter 10 of the High Springs Code of Ordinances regulates the sale of alcoholic beverages within the City limits; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2008, the City Commission amended Chapter 10 in Ordinance 2008-34 to allow for the sale of alcohol during specific hours on Sunday for malt beverages and unfortified beverages at businesses that derive at least 51 percent of their gross revenue from the sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2015, the City Commission amended Chapter 10 in Ordinance 2015-03 lifting restrictions on the type of alcohol for Sunday on-premises consumption at businesses that derive at least 51 percent of their gross revenue from the sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has determined that providing an avenue to remove regulatory barriers to businesses via special permit applications, such as restrictions on the sale of alcoholic beverages during times presently unpermitted by the Code of Ordinances for the City of High Springs by businesses that derives less than 51 percent of their gross revenue from the sale of food or nonalcoholic beverages will encourage growth and development of the City, enhance economic prosperity, diversity, and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of High Springs has determined that it is desirable to amend Section 10-2 of the High Springs Code of Ordinances by adding a special permit application process to allow businesses holding a beverage license, deriving less than 51 percent of their gross revenue from the sale of food or nonalcoholic beverages, to serve alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption outside of the times permitted in Section 10-2(d) of the Code of the City of High Springs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS:

Section 1: Section 10-2 of the High Springs Code of Ordinances entitled "Hours of Sale" is hereby amended to read as follows (words ~~struck through~~ have been deleted, and words underlined have been added):

- (a) Packaged sales for off-premises consumption of malt beverages and unfortified wine shall be permitted on Monday through Saturday, inclusive, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight, and on Sunday between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- (b) Packaged sales for off-premises consumption of all alcoholic beverages except malt beverages and unfortified wine shall be permitted on Monday through Saturday, inclusive, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight.
- (c) Sales for on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages in any business holding a beverage license, which business derives at least 51 percent of its gross revenue from the sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages, shall be permitted on Monday through Thursday, inclusive, and Saturday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight, on Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. immediately following, and Sunday between the hours of 1:00 pm. and 11:00 p.m. When December 31 occurs on a Saturday through Thursday, sales of all alcoholic beverages on those days shall be permitted to continue until 2:00 a.m. immediately following.
- (d) Sales for on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages in any business holding a beverage license, which business derives less than 51 percent of its gross revenue from the sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages, shall be permitted on Monday through Thursday, inclusive, and Saturday, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight, and on Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. immediately following. When December 31 occurs on a Monday through Thursday or Saturday, such sales of alcoholic beverages on those days shall be permitted to continue until 2:00 a.m. immediately following. When December 31 occurs on a Sunday, such sales of alcoholic beverages shall be permitted from 6:00 p.m. of the Sunday until 2:00 a.m. immediately following.
- (e) Notwithstanding the foregoing, a business holding a beverage license, which derives less than 51 percent of its gross revenue from the sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages, may petition the City for a Special Permit to allow sales for on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages outside of the hours described in Paragraph (d) with the following requirements and restrictions:
 - 1. Businesses applying for a Special Permit to operate outside of the hours described in Paragraph (d) must supply, with their Special Permit Application, proof of food service or Food Trucks on business premises during the scheduled event.
 - 2. If the Special Permit is applied for in connection with a Sunday associated with a Citywide event (e.g. Pioneer Day) or Federal Holiday (New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Cinco de Mayo), it shall be subject to administrative approval.
 - 3. If the Special Permit is not applied for in connection with a Sunday associated with a Citywide event (e.g. Pioneer Day) or Federal Holiday (New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day,

Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Cinco de Mayo), it shall be subject to city commission approval.

4. The Special Permit shall not be issued for a time period exceeding forty-eight (48) hours.

5. Applications may include multiple future events in one application.

Section 2. Severability. If any provision or portion of this ordinance is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional or unenforceable, then all remaining provisions and portions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Conflict. All ordinances or portions of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage at second and final reading.

Section 5. Codifier. All text shown in ~~bold and strike through~~ is to be deleted. All text shown in **bold and underline** is adopted.

DONE THE FIRST READING, by the City Commission of the City of High Springs, Florida, at a regular meeting, this 9th day of May , 2024.


DONE, THE PUBLIC NOTICE, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of High Springs, Florida, by the City Clerk of the City of High Springs, Florida on the 30th day of May, 2024.

DONE THE SECOND READING, AND ADOPTED ON FINAL PASSAGE, by an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present of the City Commission of the City of High Springs, Florida, at a regular meeting, this 13th day of June , 2024.

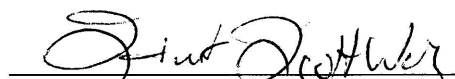
BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HIGH
SPRINGS, FLORIDA


Katherine Weitz, Mayor

ATTEST, BY THE CLERK OF THE
CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA:


Angela Stone, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGALITY:


S. Scott Walker, City Attorney

GOAL: Get on November 4, 2025 General Election Ballot

Step 1: City Commission Must Pass a Resolution

According to the Charter:

- If the City Commission **does not adopt** the ordinance after signature verification, it must pass a **resolution calling for a referendum** at the **next general election** that occurs at least **45 days later**.

Latest Possible Date for Commission to Pass Referendum Resolution

- November 4, 2025 minus 45 days = September 20, 2025

So the Commission must act by September 20, 2025

Step 2: Commission Gets 60 Days to Act After Verification

- So, counting **60 days backward from September 20, 2025**: to place it on that ballot (which our Commission Meeting is Scheduled for Sept. 11, 2025 or we could hold a Special Meeting for the Resolution). If the Resolution is Heard on September 11, 2025, We have to have two readings of the Ordinance first, which would be August 14, 2025 and August 28, 2025. (if we did it right when we received the signature verification (we would need the Ordinance with the signature verification from the SOE by August 6, 2025 to go out in the agenda packet for the August 14, 2025 meeting and to properly public notice on the County Website for the second reading).

👉 **Signature Verification must be completed by: August 5, 2025** (in order to get to the City for agenda packet and advertising).

Step 3: Supervisor Has 45 Days to Verify Signatures

- So, counting **45 days backward from August 5, 2025**:

👉 **Signatures must be submitted to Supervisor of Elections by: June 21, 2025**

Final Cutoff Dates (Per Ordinance Timing)

Milestone	Deadline
Latest date to submit signatures for verification	June 21, 2025
Latest date Supervisor can finish verifying signatures	August 5, 2025
Latest date City Commission can call referendum	September 20, 2025


	Milestone	Deadline
Target ballot date		November 4, 2025


OFFICIAL TIMELINE

Start: Petition Form Approved by City Clerk – March 17, 2025 (Received March 13, 2025)
(Date the petition drive legally begins)

✓ PHASE 1: SIGNATURE COLLECTION (180 Days)


Step	Date
Day 1 – Petition Drive Begins	March 17, 2025
Last Day to Collect and Submit Signatures	September 13, 2025

 *Sponsor has exactly 180 days from approval to collect valid signatures totaling 10% of registered voters (from the most recent general election).*

 *Signed and dated petition forms must be submitted to the **Supervisor of Elections** with applicable fees by this deadline.*


✓ PHASE 2: SIGNATURE VERIFICATION (45 Days)


Step	Date
Deadline for Supervisor of Elections to Verify Signatures	October 28, 2025


 *The Supervisor of Elections has **45 days** from submission to verify the signatures and report the results to the **City Commission**.*

✓ PHASE 3: CITY COMMISSION REVIEW (60 Days)

Step	Date
City Commission Must Hold Public Hearing and Vote by	December 27, 2025

 *The City Commission has **60 days** from receipt of verified signatures to hold a public hearing and vote on the proposed ordinance.*

 *If adopted: the ordinance becomes law.*

 *If **not adopted**: a referendum must be scheduled at the next general election at least 45 days away.*

PHASE 4: IF REFERENDUM IS REQUIRED

Scenario	Outcome
Next General Election Occurring at Least 45 Days After City Vote	Example: November 2026
If Approved by Voters	Ordinance enacted via resolution by the City Commission
Effective Date	As specified in the ordinance, or January 1, 2027 (if not specified)

Summary of All Legal Deadlines:

Milestone	Date
Petition Approved by Clerk	March 17, 2025
180-Day Signature Deadline	September 13, 2025
45-Day Signature Verification Deadline	October 28, 2025
60-Day City Commission Hearing Deadline	December 27, 2025
Referendum (if required)	Next general election (Nov 2026 or later)

Timeline: City of High Springs Alcohol Ordinance

2005

- **Ordinance 2005-17**
 - Changed the minimum distance required between establishments selling alcoholic beverages and churches **from 600 feet to 500 feet**.
 - Distance measured in a **straight line** from the main entrance of the establishment to the main entrance of the church building.

2008

- **Ordinance 2008-34**
 - Amended **Sunday alcohol sales hours**.
 - Allowed **packaged sales (off-premises)** of malt beverages and unfortified wine **only** from **1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.** on Sundays.
 - Allowed **on-premises sales** for businesses deriving **at least 51%** of gross revenue from **food and nonalcoholic beverages** between **1:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.** on Sundays (only **malt beverages and unfortified wine**).
 - Businesses with **less than 51%** food/non-alcohol revenue **could not sell on Sundays**.

2011

- **Ordinance 2011-07**
 - Introduced an **exception** to the distance restriction:
 - Allowed **on-premises consumption** of alcoholic beverages within 500 feet of a church for restaurants meeting the following:
 - At least **51% gross revenue** from food and nonalcoholic beverages.
 - Must have **cooking facilities and kitchen equipment** for **60 food customers**.
 - Must maintain **place settings and seating** for **60 customers**.
 - Must offer **full-course meals**; **at least 50%** of menu selections must be **non-alcoholic multiple course meals**.
- **Ordinance 2011-26**
 - **Repealed provisions** of Ordinance 2011-07 (i.e., removed the exception allowing restaurants to be within 500 feet of churches).

2015

- **Ordinance 2015-03**
 - **Changed Sunday alcohol sales rules** again.
 - Allowed businesses with **at least 51% gross revenue from food/nonalcoholic beverages** to sell **all types of alcoholic beverages** (not limited to malt beverages/unfortified wine) **from 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.** on Sundays.

2018

- **Ordinance 2018-01**
 - Proposal to **allow alcohol at the Civic Center.**
 - **Did not pass.**

2023

- **Discussion only**
 - Consideration of allowing businesses with **less than 51%** food/nonalcoholic beverage revenue to **open on Sundays** for alcohol sales.

2024

- **Ordinance 2024-03**
 - Approved alcohol sales on Sundays for businesses with **less than 51%** food/nonalcoholic revenue, but **only with an approved special event permit.**

Key Events:

- **2005-17:** Reduced distance for alcohol sales near churches from 600 to 500 feet.
- **2008-34:** Allowed limited Sunday alcohol sales (malt beverages and unfortified wine) under specific conditions.
- **2011-07:** Permitted on-premises alcohol sales near churches for restaurants meeting strict food service criteria.
- **2011-26:** Repealed the provisions of Ordinance 2011-07.
- **2015-03:** Expanded Sunday alcohol sales for qualifying businesses without beverage type restrictions.
- **2018-01:** Failed ordinance to allow alcohol at the civic center.
- **2023:** Discussion on allowing broader Sunday alcohol sales for businesses with less than 51% food revenue.

Legend

- On-site Consumption of Alcohol
(300 feet radius)
- Churches
(500 foot radius)
- Commercial Zoning
(C1, C2, C3)
- Industrial Zoning
(IND)

