



City of Grand Forks
Staff Report **(UPDATED)**
Committee of the Whole – November 24, 2025
City Council – December 1, 2025 and December 15, 2025

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council
Maureen Storstad
12/01/2025
Maureen Storstad
City Auditor

Agenda Item: Amend City Code relating to Class 8.4 (Albrecht Field) Alcoholic Beverage License

Submitted by: Maureen Storstad, Finance Director
Sherie Lundmark, City Clerk

Staff Recommended Action: Approve change in operational term for Class 8.4 Alcoholic Beverage License to remove restrictions on operational months

UPDATE: Recommend also approving addition of canned cocktails as type of alcohol allowed

Committee Recommended Action: Motion by Osowski, second by Lunski to refer to City Council with a recommendation to approve staff recommended action. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Action: 12/01: Motion by Sande, second by Osowski to give preliminary approval, with addition of language in City Code defining "Canned Cocktails". Motion passed unanimously.
12/15:

UPDATE (after City Council 12/01):

Based on direction of City Council, City Attorney will work on an amendment to the definitions section of the alcohol code to include a definition of canned cocktails. Draft ordinance will be brought for consideration at the January 5, 2026 City Council meeting.

UPDATE (after COW):

Following the meeting, Red River Softball, LLC reached out and requested consideration of also including in this amendment the ability to serve canned cocktails, which they are allowed to do at the facilities they serve in Minot and Bismarck. This was discussed at the time of license creation, however at that time similar licensees only offered beer and wine. Mid-summer City Council did approve a request to add canned cocktails to the Fairgrounds license. There have been no issues with this change. Staff recommends approval of the request and has updated the draft ordinance to include amendment of City Code to allow for canned cocktails.

BACKGROUND:

City of Grand Forks regulates the sale of alcoholic beverages. The City and created a Class 8.4 Alcoholic Beverage License for service at Albrecht Field with final approval occurring on April 7, 2025. When created, the license was based on the operational season for Kraft Field. Albrecht Field will serve various levels of softball teams, including youth, the UND Women's Softball team, and the Grand Forks Spitfires. UND Womens Softball has a spring and fall season. The Grand Forks Spitfires will have their first season in Grand Forks in 2026.

Based on review of the various seasons and other potential special events that may occur at the field, an amendment to City Code removing the specific dates of operation would better fit the uses of this license at Albrecht Field. This is similar to other public facilities licenses.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- City Code includes regulations for Alcohol Licensing in Grand Forks.
- An amendment to the Class 8.4 license relating to term of operation is proposed to better fit facility and variety of user groups with varied seasons and possible special events.
- City Council approval is required for adoption of the amending ordinance.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Letter from Red River Softball, LLC requesting addition of canned cocktails
- Draft Ordinance (Updated to include addition of canned cocktails)

City Council,

I am submitting this memo to formally request an amendment to the ordinance that was reviewed by the Committee of the Whole to include canned cocktails as an authorized beverage option under our license at Albrecht Field.

Our team currently operates summer collegiate teams in Bismarck and Minot, where canned cocktails have been served responsibly and successfully for multiple seasons. Canned cocktails are a controlled, pre-packaged product and typically do not vary much in ABV from a standard beer. Because they are not mixed on-site, they also avoid the operational and compliance challenges associated with preparing individual cocktails. This format supports responsible service through fixed portion sizes, reduced risk, and simplified staff procedures.

Additionally, canned cocktails continue to rise in popularity nationwide and locally, reflecting consumer preference for convenient, ready-to-serve beverages. Providing this option would align Grand Forks with current market trends and guest expectations.

We respectfully request that the ordinance be amended to include canned cocktails for discussion and preliminary approval at Monday's City Council meeting.

Please let me know if any additional information is needed. We appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Nate Maddox

COO, Grand Forks Spitfires

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance to amend Grand Forks City Code § 21-0205, relating to alcohol licensing, so as to create a Class 8.4 alcohol license permitting the sale of beer, wine, and canned cocktails upon or at Albrecht Field.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, pursuant to its home rule charter, Grand Forks City Code and N.D.C.C. ch. 40-11 that:

Section 1: Amending Clause to Amend Grand Forks City Code § 21-0205.

Grand Forks City Code § 21-0205 is amended to read as follows (the amending language in bold, with deletions stricken through and additions underlined):

21-0205. – Same – Classifications.

The following classes of retail licenses are hereby established:

* * *

II. Special licenses:

(1) Public facilities.

(A) Fairgrounds beer and wine (class 6).

(B) Golf course beer and wine (class 7).

(C) Airport alcoholic beverages (class 8).

(D) Kraft Field beer (class 8.1).

(E) Alerus Center (class 8.2).

(F) Engelstad Arena (class 8.3).

(G) Albrecht Field (class 8.4).

(2) Bowling center alcoholic beverages (class 9).

(3) Reserved.

(4) Special or limited license (class 11).

(5) Domestic distilleries (class 12).

- (6) Reserved.
- (7) Wine and beer maker license (class 14).
- (8) Winery on-sale and off-sale (class 15).
- (9) Brewer taproom (class 16).
- (10) Manufacturing distillery (class 17)

* * *

III. Class descriptions and requirements:

* * *

Class 8.4. Albrecht Field. The Grand Forks City Council may issue one (1) on-sale beer and wine license for the purposes of limited sales of on-sale beer and wine upon or at Albrecht Field. Such license may be issued only upon the following conditions:

- (1) Sales of beer and wine shall be allowed only within the specified premises identified in the license issued.
- (2) **Canned Cocktails**, Beer and Wine shall not be sold in bottles but, rather, must be sold in cans, disposable cups or similar containers.
- (3) **Canned Cocktails**, Beer and Wine may only be sold during actual events held in and about Albrecht Field and one and one-half (1½) hours preceding such event. No sales of beer and wine be made after the completion of such event.
- ~~(4) The license shall be issued on a seasonal basis commencing annually on the first day of April and terminating on the thirty-first day of October.~~
- ~~(4)~~(5) No off-sale distribution of alcoholic beverages shall be permitted.

~~(5)~~(6) Any license issued hereunder shall not be subject to the qualification requirements contained within this article, nor to any zoning or location requirements.

(6) (7) The license may only be issued to that person or entity designated by the University of North Dakota.

* * *

Section 2: Effectivity.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect after publication thereof, as provided by law.

Brandon Bochenski, Mayor
Dated: _____

ATTEST:

Maureen Storstad, City Auditor
Dated: _____
Introduction and first reading: _____
Public Hearing: _____
Second reading and final passage and approval: _____
Approved: _____
Published: _____