

## **Council OKs ordinance for liquor-licensed establishments**

**By Jeanne Davant**

Applicants who want to make changes to liquor-licensed establishments will find it easier to follow the necessary steps under an ordinance passed on first reading Tuesday by City Council.

City Clerk Donna Kast, who has been reviewing the City Code, found that there were no guidelines for Council members to make decisions about proposed alterations to premises of liquor-licensed establishments.

Kast drafted the new ordinance outlining the procedures for making modifications such as moving a door or adding a patio, and also put together a packet that will ease the process for applicants.

The new ordinance generally follows state law, which requires a \$150 application fee. Kast, noting that the city does most of the work on these applications, recommended adding a \$150 city application fee. The city fee is not specified in the ordinance but will be adopted by Council resolution at its next meeting.

Kast also recommended a provision that would allow Council to require a public hearing on a change that would affect neighboring properties, such as a major expansion. The ordinance allows lets Council impose conditions on approvals.

Kast developed a form that asks applicants to provide a description of the proposed modification, reasons for the modification and how its denial would impact the business, along with other information about how the modification would affect the neighborhood.

Council will hold a public hearing and second reading of the ordinance at its March 15 meeting.

Also Tuesday, Council approved Coquette Creperie's application to extend outdoor table service, including alcohol service to an adjacent property that owner Michelle Marx also owns.

Marx's application was processed under the existing rules and not the new procedures, since it was filed before adoption of the ordinance.

### **In other business, Council...**

- Heard a report from Trails and Open Space Coalition member Bill Koerner on a sustainable parks initiative that aims to provide funds for park maintenance throughout El Paso County. Koerner said the group is considering placement of a countywide sales tax increase of up to 0.3 percent on the November ballot to fund the initiative. Revenue would be passed primarily to Colorado Springs and El Paso County, with other cities receiving funds based on a population-based formula. Council members, concerned about a sales tax increase that might not produce dollar-for-dollar returns, decided not to sign a proposed letter of support for the process but agreed to send a representative to a March 10 meeting.

- Heard a discussion of a free bike program by Natalie Johnson. She said the program's proponent, Tim Chase, has collected about a dozen bikes and will conduct a drive to obtain more. The bikes will be repainted, and Chase hopes to deploy them at racks in Old Colorado City and Manitou by late spring or early summer.

- Viewed a presentation on the library's activities and renovation during its Centennial year, 2010.

- Heard a report on the Urban Renewal Authority's budget, which proposes a year-end balance of nearly \$150,000. Board member Ann Nichols said the authority has been accumulating funds because the economic climate has not been favorable for action in the eastern Manitou urban renewal zone.

- Heard a report from Planning Director Dan Folke that the Nature of Things, a chainsaw art business on Manitou Avenue, has submitted evidence of compliance with state law on noise emanating from the property. He said owner Bill Fee has made additional changes to the wall surrounding his carving area to mitigate noise that was bothering neighbors.

- Was told by Snyder that special meetings will be held next week to review the Ennovate energy-savings contract; on March 12 to interview city administrator candidates, and on March 29 to receive the Mt. Manitou Incline management plan. Snyder also said that the public is invited to a reception for the city administrator finalists at 5:30 p.m. March 11 at City Hall. Public comment on the candidates will be invited.

[Return to Article Index](#)