

# MH Council approves state's first entertainment district

Scott Liles, Baxter Bulletin Published 9:37 p.m. CT June 21, 2019

*Downtown area will allow limited consumption of alcohol starting July 24*

[Buy Photo](#)



A crowd of more than 40 people listen Thursday night as Mountain Home City Attorney Roger Morgan reads a proposed ordinance that would create a downtown entertainment district. (Photo: Scott Liles/The Baxter Bulletin)

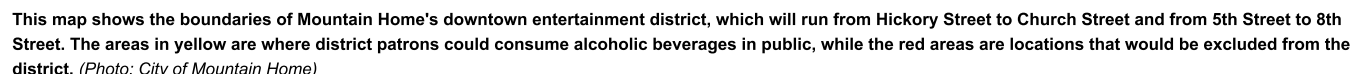
A downtown entertainment district where some public alcohol consumption would be permitted will open in July, the Mountain Home City Council voted Thursday night.

The ordinance creating the district was approved 5-3 Thursday night with Mayor Hillrey Adams casting the decisive fifth vote. Council members voting in favor of the entertainment district were Jim Bodenhamer, Paige Evans, Bob Van Haaren and James Whalen. Council members voting against the proposal included Jennifer Baker, Eva Frame and Don Webb. Council member Wayne Almond was absent.

The entertainment district, which will run downtown from Hickory Street to Church Street and from 5th Street to 8th Street, will open on July 24. Visitors to the district between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and midnight daily would be permitted to leave a restaurant or bar with a single commercially branded paper or plastic cup of alcohol. Patrons could then drink that alcohol while walking around the entertainment district.

Alcohol vendors located inside the district would continue to be required to be licensed by the state's Alcohol Beverage Control Board and would answer to their authority.

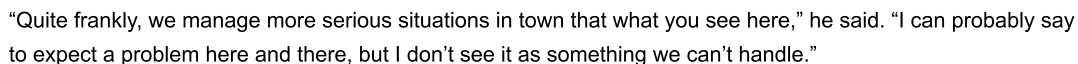
2 free articles left.



Certain government-owned properties like the Baxter County Courthouse, Mountain Home City Hall, Hickory Park or the Veterans Plaza are also excluded from the entertainment district.

ADVERTISING

It would continue to be illegal for district patrons to possess an open can, bottle or glass container of alcohol. It would also be illegal for entertainment district patrons to drink alcohol inside of a parked motor vehicle.



(https://eb2.3lift.com/pass?tl\_clickthrough=true&redir=https%3A%2F%2Fbtrack.com%2FsvTtCcvJgf6i4lxQZBJglitMTCXSAgaymzNuvAWnGEw20mtjSFQhMCYM8rv\_yYJ15KHUI9CYVzQvDp5F5P1fngiBkls5GTvWOQ2PJhNM00puH8g\_ng\_rHZuhu4vw8Csf575lccMuS4M1gnvKb\_0xv9outamiCrtKtlMthVYMuQJHtfFr-08HG\_qviYwFvvlAEEYRnaBRaowd

Duncan Clayton, whose family owns Clayton's Downtown Grill and Nature's Way Health Foods in downtown Mountain Home, holds a copy of the ABC regulations while addressing the Mountain Home City Council on Thursday night. (Photo: Scott Liles/The Baxter Bulletin)

**Know  
About  
Index  
Funds?**

See  
more →

MH Council approves state's first entertainment district  
vwQxBgybo6CDMuXqFSV0Q7WTHLPFTby4H02bIC8izJHdX6rZre3qBCCQkfl9QzB6atkaJh  
C6VmQDp2LLAobREN4Urq677OAQicdN16RC7pqfQQ9UipJWiUGmRiX\_TeHt9LRIHJiEkakS

The Mountain Home Area Chamber of Commerce on June 14 issued a news release stating that the Chamber's Board of Directors had voted to support the establishment of the entertainment district.

"We feel the designated area of downtown as an entertainment district and the benefits that come with it will certainly be a move in the right direction as we continue to work to make our community the best it can be for our citizens and for our local businesses," Chamber President Jeff Pipkin said in the news release.

## Newsletters

**Get the Daily Briefing newsletter in your inbox.**

Start your day with the morning's top news

Delivery: Daily

Your Email



Adams said Thursday night that an advisory committee would be established to help supervise the activities of the entertainment district. Businesses or organizations wanting to hold public events downtown would first seek permission to do so from the committee, with any alcohol vendors still having to receive the appropriate ABC permits and licenses.

The City Council read the entertainment ordinance for the first time two weeks ago on June 6. The version read twice and adopted Thursday night included a slimmed-down entertainment district, which was originally one block wider on the south and east sides.

The Arkansas General Assembly approved legislation earlier this year permitting the creation of such entertainment districts across the state. That law does not go into effect until July 24, which is the earliest that Mountain Home's entertainment district could begin operating.

Mountain Home is believed to be the first city to enact such an entertainment district. El Dorado, Fayetteville and Little Rock are also believed to be considering creating similar districts.

Read or Share this story: <https://www.baxterbulletin.com/story/news/local/2019/06/21/mh-council-approves-states-first-entertainment-district/1526786001/>