

11/20/2025

Dear Madam Mayor Chase and City Council members,

I am writing this letter regarding an item that is upcoming on the City Council agenda. The fee schedule, particularly the Liquor store permitting fees. I believe raising the permitting fees is going to have a negative effect on the store, as I have stated before, the current fees already turn people away.

As a resident of Kotzebue, customer of the store, and the store manager of Arctic Spirits, I do not think it is a good idea to raise our permit fees again until the city gets a handle on the utility side of the financials.

The liquor store brings in anywhere from \$800,000.00-\$1,200,000.00 in profit annually. Of that profit, the liquor store contributes \$100,000's yearly to city and community events, like the 4th of July, scholarship opportunities for youth, annual donations to the schools, and many other things.

The City of Kotzebue, for many years now, has used a lot of the revenue from the store to subsidize the utilities that do not balance themselves with the costs of running them. I would like to ask that before you continue to raise prices on the customers that we do have, you implement a strategy to get those utilities to where they need to be.

I believe once that happens the city will be in a better place to continue moving forward and if the council would like to see more profit after that, we can look into other ways of making the city money other than raising permit fees, like a 1-2% sales tax on alcoholic beverages.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Jamie Lambert – resident/ customer/ store manager