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MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CC: JOSHUA M. TETZLAFF, CITY ADMINISTRATOR
FROM: KEN ONDICH, PLANNING / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #357 ADDING SECTION 90.14 (DOGS IN OUTDOOR AREAS OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS) OF CHAPTER 90 TITLED ANIMAL REGULATIONS.
DATE: OCTOBER 22ND, 2025

Staff recently received an inquiry from Giesenbrau Bier Co. about allowing a dog-friendly outdoor patio area. The City Code currently does not accommodate a dog-friendly area for any food or beverage service establishments. Per Minnesota State Statute § 157.175, statutory or home rule charter cities may adopt an ordinance to permit this. It also requires that establishments obtain a permit from the City before allowing dogs. Establishments are also not required to provide a dog-friendly patio, as it's entirely opt-in.

For an establishment that also serves liquor, patrons may not enter the patio directly, as provided for in the zoning ordinance. Due to the zoning ordinance provision restriction on entering patios with alcohol, the proposed § 90.14(D)(1) permits for dogs to be "in an approved interior corridor solely for the purpose of being transported" directly to the outdoor dog area.

Staff recommends that City Code Chapter 90 be amended to include a new Section 90.14 allowing food and beverage service establishments to opt-in to allow dogs in designated outdoor areas. Establishments will be required to obtain a permit and put up signage before allowing dogs.

The first reading of the code amendment occurred at the October 20th City Council meeting, and the required notice was posted on October 21st.

Staff also recommends that the fee schedule be amended by adding a fee titled "Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas" of \$50 to cover the processing of the permit.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council conduct the second reading and adopt Ordinance #357 and also approve the attached resolution amending the fee schedule by adding a \$50 fee for a permit for "Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas".