

CHAPTER 14

LICENSES AND PERMITS

LAST AMENDED 3/20/2023

Section 14.1. A Licensing Board for the City of Somersworth is hereby constituted under the provisions of RSA 286 and any other powers granted by State statute, to consist of the Mayor, the Chief of Police and the City Manager or his/her designee.

(Section 14.1, Amended 11/16/2020.)

Section 14.1.1. The Board shall investigate and decide the question of granting licenses and permits, and may grant revocable blanket licenses to fraternal and other like organizations, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of this chapter. The Board may also hear and decide applications for permits to conduct organized activities on or about public properties. The Board may also grant licenses and permits on private property when the regulations of the show, event or dance thereon is authorized by State statute.

(Revised 02/01/1999.)

Section 14.2 Permits. Persons or organizations shall obtain a permit from the Licensing Board for the following purposes:

1. Solicit funds for charitable purposes.
2. Erect banners or signs related to a special event.
3. Tag days (donation solicitation) days.
4. Conduct parades or processions, festivals or races, walk-a-thons, public demonstration or protest on public property or highway.
5. Conduct a carnival, fair, circus, dance exhibition or demonstration, live music shows, disc jockey, karaoke, or other amplified music event in which the public is invited for pay to attend or attendance is free.
6. The temporary closing of any City street or temporary use of any City property for the purpose of community related or private events. A certificate of insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000, acceptable to the City, that names the City of Somersworth as an additional insured shall be required. The Licensing Board, at its discretion, may require additional conditions at no cost to the City to include, but not limited to, a higher insurance binder amount, police or fire details, or other measures to ensure the public safety.

(Section 14.2 Permits, Amended 3/20/2023)

Section 14.2A Public Dance Definition/Fees.

Public Dance Definition – any dance or ball to which admission may be had by the payment of a fee or which the public may gain admission without payment of a fee, or a dance which is held as part of any other public entertainment, amusement or exhibit.

Annual Fee – a yearly license may be issued for an annual fee of \$500.00 for dances held in all places, including restaurants, bars and lounges. Annual fees for dances shall only apply to the ordinary and usual dance referred to in the license. A license for a single public dance in any place may be issued for a daily fee of \$15.00. Any sexually explicit dancing shall not be included within the annual dance fee and requires separate application.

(Section 14.2A passed 02/01/1999.)

Section 14.3 Fees. Each applicant shall pay in advance for such license, for the use of the City as follows:

1. There will be a \$25.00 fee for each license issued, unless otherwise stated in another section, for each day or event, unless specifically waived by the Licensing Board. The \$25.00 fee shall be waived if the applicant is a non-profit organization; the permit is to raise funding for a charitable purpose; or tagging (solicitation) is for a Community based fundraising effort.
2. License fees for carnivals, circuses, traveling tent shows and the like, shall be determined by the Board within the limits of NH, RSA 286.

(Section 14.3 Fees, Amended 3/20/2023)

Section 14.4. Licenses granted shall be issued by the Licensing Board, and annual licenses shall be valid for one year, expiring on the 31st of December, unless specified in Chapter 286.

Section 14.5 Taxi. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle for the transportation of passengers for hire upon the public streets and highways of the City of Somersworth unless the owner or operator thereof shall procure a license so to do from said Licensing Board, and no license shall be issued until the applicant therefore has posted evidence with said Board that all vehicles to be operated are fully protected by insurance with some reliable insurance company licensed to do business in the State of New Hampshire. The annual fee for said license shall be \$25.00 for one vehicle, \$50.00 for two vehicles and \$75.00 per year for three or more vehicles.

Section 14.6 Application. A written application for a permit must be submitted 30 (thirty) days prior to the date of the event. The application shall contain the following information:

Name or Name of Organization
Statement of permission from property owner
Name, address and telephone number of Person in Charge
Purpose
Dates and times
Specific location(s)
Anticipated number of attendees

Police detail secured if required

Certificate of Insurance naming the City of Somersworth as additionally insured
(if event is to take place on City property)

Map of event set-up (tables, tents, stages, parking, restrooms, etc.)

Serving of alcoholic beverages shall require proof of proper State of NH Liquor
Licensing permission and a police officer/s detail.

Any event requiring the use of a public way, publicly owned property, or any
modification to parking regulations shall require a meeting with a Police
Department representative as well as any necessary City staff as designated by the
City Manager no later than 14 (fourteen) days prior to the event.

(Section 14.6 Application, Amended 3/20/2023.)

Section 14.7. If the request would require a temporary waiver of any Planning or Zoning
Regulations of the City, the Licensing Board shall first refer the application to the
appropriate staff or Board for review and recommendation prior to deciding on the
application.

(Section 14.7, Amended 3/20/2023.)

Section 14.8. The permit when issued shall contain the effective date, expiration date,
the purpose and the name, address, telephone number and email address of the
responsible person.

(Section 14.8, Amended 3/20/2023.)

Section 14.9. Permits and licenses issued under this chapter are not transferable and are
of limited duration unless otherwise specified in the permit or license.

Permits and licenses issued may be rescinded or revoked at any time.

A police officer(s) may be assigned to a particular function when deemed necessary and
proper in the interest of public safety. The expenses shall be borne by the individual or
organization sponsoring the event.

Section 14.9A. All dances, public exhibitions and shows set forth herein shall be
discontinued and the hall and location closed on or before the hour of 1:30 a.m. unless
otherwise waived by the Chief of Police for good cause. (Passed 02/01/1999.)

Section 14.10 Penalty. Any person, organization or corporation who violates any of the
provisions of this chapter shall be fined not less than \$100.00 for each offense.

Section 14.11 Severability. It is the intention of the City Council that each separate
provision of this ordinance shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein
and it is further the intention of the City Council that if any provision of this ordinance be
declared invalid, all other provisions thereof shall remain valid and enforceable.

Revised Chapter 14 passed 05/02/1994.
Chapter 14 revised 02/01/1999.
Amended 03/20/2023.