

## CHAPTER 7.04

## PUBLIC DANCES AND DANCE HALLS

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7.04.010 DEFINITIONS. The following terms, as used in this chapter, shall mean:

(a) "Public Dance" means any dance or ball to which the public generally may gain admission with or without the payment of an admission fee. Dancing by patrons of a duly licensed tavern, bar, lounge, or eating establishment shall not be considered a public dance.

(b) "Public Dance Hall" means any room, hall, pavillion, boat, float, building or other structure utilized for public dancing. [Ord. 80 (1965) § 1; Ord. 151 (1981) § 2]

7.04.020 LICENSE REQUIRED - FEES. It shall be unlawful to open up, conduct, manage, operate or maintain a public dance hall within Benton County outside of the limits of incorporated cities, without a valid and subsisting license so to do, to be known as a public dance hall license. License fees for the operation of dances shall be at the rate of \$50.00 per annum or \$25.00 per quarter or \$5.00 per single dance. License fees for the operation of dances wherein no individual person shall profit and having particular reference to Grange, patriotic, fraternal

and community dances, shall be at the rate of \$25.00 per annum or \$10.00 per quarter or \$1.00 per single dance.  
[Ord. 80 (1965) ■ 2]

7.04.030 LICENSE FOR PUBLIC DANCE. It shall be unlawful for any person to hold a public dance without first having obtained a license therefore from the Auditor of Benton County or his designated agent. The application for such license shall be referred by the County Auditor to the Sheriff's Office or his designated agent for his recommendations and report, and if the Sheriff's office shall approve of the same, the Auditor or his designated agent may issue such license upon presentation to him of the proper license fee.

The application for a dance or dance hall license shall be made in writing on forms to be provided by the County Auditor at least five days before the dance authorized thereunder is to be held; no dance hall license shall be transferred from one person to another and no refunds or rebates of money shall be made.  
[Ord. 80 (1965) ■ 3]

7.04.040 REFUSAL, CANCELLATION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE. (a)  
The Sheriff may refuse to recommend the issuance of a dance hall license or he may cancel or revoke any such license after it has been issued, if he shall learn that the same was procured by fraud or false representation of facts, or that the applicant or licensee has failed to comply with the provisions and requirements of this chapter or has violated any provisions hereof, or for any other reason which in the opinion of the Sheriff will be detrimental to the public peace, health or welfare. Any person may appeal to the County Commissioners from any decision of the Sheriff in refusing to recommend the issuance of a dance hall license under the provisions of this chapter, or in the revoking of a license previously granted by the County Auditor on his recommendation.

(b) The Board of County Commissioners is authorized to review any action of the Sheriff relative to such refusal to recommend a dance hall license or the revocation of such license previously issued, and the action of the

Board of County Commissioners shall be final. All appeals to the Board of County Commissioners shall be filed with the County Auditor for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners at its next regular meeting following notice of the decision of the Sheriff to the persons affected thereby.  
[Ord. 80 (1965) ■ 4]

7.04.050 FLOOR MANAGER - DUTIES. Every person conducting a public dance hall shall have a floor manager in control of the premises continuously from one-half (1/2) hour before the dance begins until the dance hall is closed. It shall be the duty of the floor manager to see that standards of decency and good taste are maintained and that disorderly, familiar, or objectionable conduct is not tolerated, and to take effective steps immediately to remove objectionable persons and stop objectionable practices.  
[Ord. 80 (1965) ■ 5]

7.04.060 LIGHTING INTENSITY. After sunset every public dance hall shall be lighted or illuminated in such a manner and to such an extent as is usual or customary for lighting halls or rooms of like dimensions in the nighttime for public assemblage, before any patrons are admitted thereto, or before any dance or dancing is commenced therein.  
[Ord. 80 (1965) ■ 6]

7.04.070 VULGAR OR INDECENT CONDUCT PROHIBITED. It shall be unlawful for any person to whom a dance hall license is issued or for any person conducting a public dance hall under such license from the county, to allow or permit in any public dance hall any indecent act to be committed or any disorder or conduct of a gross, violent or vulgar character, or to permit in any such dance hall any person of low moral character. Any member of the Sheriff's office or deputies duly authorized by himself shall have the power and it shall be the duty of each of them to cause any dance hall to be vacated whenever any provision of this chapter relating to public dance halls, or public dancing, is being violated or whenever any indecent

acts shall be committed, or when any disorder or conduct of a gross, violent or vulgar character shall take place therein. [Ord. 80 (1965) ■ 7]

7.04.080 MINORS TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN. It shall be unlawful to permit any person who has not reached the age of eighteen (18) years, to attend or remain at any public dance unless such person be accompanied by the parent or legal guardian of such person, and it shall be unlawful for any person to represent himself to have reached the age of eighteen (18) years in order to attend or remain in any public dance when such person, in fact, is under eighteen (18) years of age, and it shall be unlawful to falsely represent himself to be a parent or legal guardian or any person in order that such person may attend or remain at any public dance, provided that minors under eighteen may attend a teen-age dance where a proper license has been applied for under the provisions of chapter 7.08. [Ord. 80 (1965) ■ 8]

7.04.090 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. The sale and/or consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages at public dances shall be in strict conformance with all applicable laws of the State of Washington and rules and regulations of the Washington State Liquor Control Board, and any permits or other authorizations required by the Washington State Liquor Control Board shall be obtained prior to commencement of the public dance. [Ord. 80 (1965) ■ 9; Ord. 151 (1981) ■ 3]

7.04.095 PROHIBITED CONDUCT. It shall be unlawful: (a) To knowingly permit any person who is under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs to participate in or remain at any public dance or public dance hall, or (b) to knowingly permit any conduct at a public dance or on public dance hall premises which violates any of the laws of Benton County or of the State of Washington. [Ord. 151 (1981) ■ 4]

7.04.100 CLOSING HOURS. No public dance shall be conducted nor public dance hall kept open between the hours of 1 o'clock A.M. and 6 o'clock A.M., unless a special permit therefor is obtained from the Board of County Commissioners. [Ord. 80 (1965) ■ 10; Ord. 151 (1981) ■ 5]

7.04.110 PENALTY. A person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not to exceed \$300.00 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of not to exceed 30 days or by both such fine and imprisonment.  
[Ord. 80 (1965) ■ 11]