

Public Safety Committee

February 18, 2026

The Public Safety Committee of the City of Cumberland met on Wednesday, February 18, 2025, 10:00 A.M., at the Cumberland City Hall, 950 1st Avenue.

Mayor Shoemaker called the Public Safety Committee to order at 10:00 am at City Hall. The meeting was properly advertised, and all interested parties were notified.

The committee members present were Mayor Shoemaker, Anderson and Laursen. Others present were Chief Wolfe, Arlene Frisinger, and Randy Reeg. Absent: Schullo.

A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Laursen, to approve January 21, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Laursen, seconded by Anderson, to recommend to council to have the fire alarm system setup with cellular communication module in the amount of \$18,000. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Laursen, to recommend to council Ordinance 2026-816 Bowhunting Ordinance. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Laursen, to recommend to council Ordinance 2026-815 Cat Licensing Ordinance. Motion carried.

Special Events permit was discussed and updates given.

A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Laursen, to adjourn at 10:23 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Arlene Frisinger, Clerk

City of Cumberland

9.025 - DISCHARGING WEAPONS RESTRICTED.

(1) No person shall shoot, fire or discharge any firearm, air gun, pellet gun, BB gun, sling shot or bow and arrow within the City except in an approved shooting gallery, and except in the case of the use of bow and arrows, on a target range approved and inspected by the Chief of Police; provided this section shall not prohibit any peace officer from discharging a firearm in the performance of his duty, and further provided that the discharge of a bow and arrow or crossbow shall be permitted when conducted in compliance with Section 12.11 of this Code for authorized deer management activities.

(2) The Chief of Police shall inspect any target range within the City, upon request of a prospective user thereof, to determine whether such range is so constructed and designed as to reasonably protect the person and property of the users of such range and of the public from danger of injury to person and property.

Wisconsin Municipal Outdoor Alcohol Districts Examples, Legal Basis, and Recommendations

This report summarizes examples of Wisconsin municipalities that have established permanent or event-based outdoor alcohol consumption districts. Wisconsin does not currently have a statewide “social district” statute. Instead, municipalities rely upon a combination of municipal police powers, Chapter 125 alcohol beverage licensing authority, local open-container ordinances, and temporary event permitting authority.

General Legal Basis in Wisconsin

- Wis. Stat. § 62.11(5) – broad municipal police powers for cities.
- Wis. Stat. § 61.34(1) – village police powers.
- Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 125 – alcohol beverage licensing authority.
- Municipal authority to regulate or waive open-container restrictions.
- Authority to issue temporary Class “B” licenses and special event permits.
- Authority to expand licensed premises onto public property during approved events.

City of Sheboygan – DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area)

Legal Basis: Permanent district created through local ordinance and open-container exceptions.

- Defined district boundaries
- Alcohol purchased only from participating licensed establishments
- Required approved containers
- Consumption permitted only within mapped area

Representative Ordinance Language: Individuals are permitted to carry and consume alcoholic beverages within designated outdoor refreshment areas subject to municipal regulations.

City of Ripon – Outdoor Open Container Entertainment Event Ordinance

Legal Basis: Permit-based temporary entertainment district model.

- Temporary event boundaries
- Council or administrative approval process
- Defined event hours
- Use of special event permits and temporary licenses

Representative Ordinance Language: Outdoor Open Container Entertainment Event means a special event occurring within a defined area of the City in which open intoxicating liquor containers are permitted.

City of La Crosse – Licensed Premises Expansion

Legal Basis: Temporary expansion of licensed premises onto public property.

- Street privilege permits
- Special event approvals
- Alcohol remains within technically licensed premises
- Common for festivals and downtown events

Representative Ordinance Language: Expansion of alcohol beverage licensed premises onto public property may be authorized subject to city approval.

Village of Kimberly – Outdoor Alcohol Beverage Area

Legal Basis: Standing outdoor alcohol area with operational restrictions.

- Defined operational hours
- Controlled beverage containers
- Geographic perimeter controls
- Public safety provisions

Representative Ordinance Language: The outdoor alcoholic beverage area may only be open during approved operational periods.

Village of Arena – Open Container Waiver Model

Legal Basis: Traditional prohibition with waiver authority for approved events.

- Default public alcohol prohibition
- Temporary waivers for special events
- Council-authorized exceptions
- Simple and conservative framework

Representative Ordinance Language: Open-container prohibitions may be waived for duly authorized community events.

Recommendations for the City of Cumberland

- Adopt a hybrid ordinance allowing both permanent and temporary outdoor alcohol districts.
- Maintain a default open-container prohibition while authorizing specific exceptions through permit or district designation.
- Require alcohol to originate from participating licensed establishments.
- Require standardized containers (plastic cups, logos, colors, etc.).
- Clearly define district boundaries and operational hours.
- Reserve authority for the City Council or City Administrator to suspend operations during emergencies or public safety concerns.
- Coordinate with law enforcement and event organizers regarding crowd management and cleanup responsibilities.
- Use the licensed-premises-expansion model for larger festivals where practical, as it is generally the cleanest legal structure under Chapter 125.

Wisconsin municipalities have successfully implemented both permanent and temporary outdoor alcohol consumption districts despite the absence of a dedicated statewide “social district” statute. The strongest legal approaches combine municipal police powers with Chapter 125 licensing authority and carefully tailored open-container exceptions. The City of Cumberland could reasonably adopt a hybrid model incorporating both event-based and standing district authority while maintaining strong operational controls.