

**ORDINANCE NO. 50, 4th SERIES**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA, REPEALING SAUNA REQUIREMENTS FROM CHAPTER 114 MASSAGE PARLOR AND AMENDING CITY CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 118 SAUNA ESTABLISHMENTS AND BY ADOPTING BY REFERENCE CITY CODE CHAPTER 10 AND SECTION 10.99 WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONTAIN PENALTY PROVISIONS.**

THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That Chapter 118 Sauna Establishments shall read as follows:

**Chapter 118 Sauna Establishments**

**118.01 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms shall mean:

*Mobile Sauna* means a sauna that is intended to be moveable and operated at multiple locations.

*Permanent Sauna* means a sauna that is built in place and is not intended to be moved to other locations.

*Sauna* means a small room or bathhouse that is heated to a high temperature and used as a hot-air or steam bath for cleaning and refreshing the body and inducing perspiration often with steam that is provided by water thrown on hot stones.

*Sauna Establishment* means any privately owned place where sauna is offered or provided to members of the public.

**118.02 License Required.** No person may engage in the business of operating a sauna establishment, either permanent or mobile, without being licensed under this chapter.

**118.03 Exceptions.** Saunas that are located inside a facility such as a gym, health club, hotel, or spa are excluded from the requirements of this chapter.

**118.04 License Fees.** The fees for a sauna establishment license shall be established by the city council from time to time. Each application for a license shall be accompanied by payment in full of the required license and inspection fees, as applicable.

**118.05 License Expiration.** Licenses will run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> each year and will need to be renewed annually.

**118.06 License Requirements.**

(A) *Application* – An applicant must make an application for a license only on forms or in a format furnished by the Administration Office. License applications must contain the following information:

(1) A description and location of the premises to be licensed. A scaled diagram of the premises and furnishings must be attached.

(2) Names and addresses of the business owner, manager, and/or operator, or if a corporation, partnership, or limited liability company, all the names and addresses of the officers, partners, or members of such company.

(3) Proof of liability and property damage insurance in the amount of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence. No license issued under this chapter is valid unless the required insurance is maintained and the license holder files evidence of its continuance with the Administration Office.

(4) If the owner or operator owns or operates more than one (1) such sauna establishment, the owner or operator must file a separate application and fee for each facility owned or operated.

(5) Any other relevant information as deemed necessary by the licensing official.

(B) *Submission of plans and specifications.* An applicant must submit plans and specifications for the sauna, including the following:

(1) The proposed layout

(2) Photographs

(3) Mechanical schematics

(4) Construction materials

(5) Finish schedules

(6) Equipment types

(7) Manufacturers

(8) Model numbers

(9) Locations

(10) Dimensions

(11) Performance capacities

(12) Power Source

(13) Installation specifications

(14) Information on any custom fabricated equipment

The city may inspect the sauna establishment, consistent with application law, as frequently as the city deems necessary during construction to ensure that construction occurs in conformance with

this chapter. The city will conduct a final inspection before the start of operations and issuing a license. If work begins before approval of plans when required, the city may issue orders to halt the construction, extensive remodeling, expansion, or alteration, or may issue orders, including demolition or removal, if reasonably necessary to determine compliance with the standards of this chapter. All mobile saunas must be inspected prior to operation.

(C) *Construction and maintenance requirements.* The following requirements apply to the construction and maintenance of all sauna establishments:

- (1) Convenient toilet facilities and dressing rooms must be provided at permanent saunas.
- (2) Toilet facilities must include a water closet and handwashing sinks. Toilet facilities and dressing rooms must be clean and always in working order.
- (3) All sauna establishments and restrooms must be constructed of materials which are impervious to moisture, bacteria, mold, or fungus growth.
- (4) Floors, walls, and equipment in sauna establishments and restrooms must be always kept in a state of good repair and sanitary. Linens and other materials must be stored at least six (6) inches off the floor. There must be separate storage containers for dirty and clean linens.

#### **118.07 Restrictions**

(A) Permanent saunas required to be licensed under this chapter must be heated with an electric stove and may not be powered by a generator.

(B) Hours of operations for outdoor saunas required to be licensed under this chapter are limited to the hours between 8:00am and 10:00pm.

(C) No sauna required to be licensed under this chapter may be operated within three hundred (300) feet of a residence for more than three (3) consecutive days and no more than twelve (12) days in one (1) calendar year.

(D) *Delinquent taxes.* No permanent sauna shall be licensed if such establishment is located on property on which taxes, assessment or other financial claims to the state, county, school district or city are due and delinquent. In the event a suit has been commenced under M.S.A. §§ 278.01—278.13, questioning the amount or validity of taxes, the city, upon application, may waive strict compliance with this provision. No waiver may be granted, however, for taxes or any portion thereof, which remain unpaid for a period exceeding one year after becoming due.

(E) *Improper zoning.* No permanent sauna shall be licensed if the location of such establishment has not obtained a conditional use permit or any other required land use approval as outlined in the city's zoning code.

(F) No mobile sauna required to be licensed under this chapter may:

(1) Be operated prior to the appropriate city inspections by fire, zoning, building and license inspectors, police officers, and any other appropriate official.

(2) Be operated within two hundred (200) feet of park property without written consent in the form of a permit, agreement, or other required written authorization from the city.

(3) Use or maintain any outside sound amplifying equipment, televisions, or similar visual entertainment devices, lights, or noisemakers, such as bells, horns or whistles.

(G) No alcohol, cannabis product regulated by Minnesota Statute chapter 342, or illegal activity will be allowed within the confines of the sauna establishment.

(H) *Building, fire, and code compliance violations.* No sauna establishment shall be licensed if the location of such enterprise is not in compliance with State Building and Fire Codes in addition to this Code.

#### **118.08 Inspection.**

(A) Mobile sauna units are required to have an initial inspection by the East Grand Forks Fire Department before a license can be issued and follow up inspections will be required as determined by the East Grand Forks Fire Department.

(B) During any hours in which any person is present on the licensed premises, all sauna establishments are open to inspection by city fire, zoning, building and license inspectors, police officers, and any other appropriate official.

#### **118.09 Adverse License Action Authorized.**

(A) Any license, or application for a license, is subject to denial, nonrenewal, suspension, revocation, imposition of conditions, administrative citation, or other adverse license or enforcement action, including civil, administrative, or criminal enforcement, to the fullest extent as authorized by city code based on any violation or noncompliance with any provision of this city code or any other applicable law, statute, or rule, of for good cause. Violation of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor

(B) *Notice and hearing.* Before the City may revoke, suspend, deny or not renew a license, written notice must be sent to the applicant or owner/licensee setting forth the alleged grounds for the potential action. To appeal the revocation, suspension, denial or non-renewal, the applicant or owner/licensee must submit a request for appeal in writing within 10 days of receiving the notice. The appeal will be before an independent hearing officer who is designated by the Council. At the hearing, the applicant/licensee may speak on his or her behalf and may present witnesses and other evidence he or she deems necessary. Upon the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer, on behalf of the City Council, shall issue a written decision that includes findings of fact. The applicant/licensee may appeal the hearing officer's decision shall be filed in the District Court for the jurisdiction of the city in which the alleged violation occurred.

(C) *Ability to reapply after revocation.* If a license is revoked pursuant to this chapter, the city shall not accept or consider a new license application from the licensee whose license was revoked for a period of two years after revocation.

**118.10 Severability.**

Section 1. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this section is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this section. The city council hereby declares that it would have adopted the section in each section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication.

Section 3. City Code Chapter 10 entitled "General Provisions" Applicable to Entire City Code Including Penalty for Violation" and Section 10.99 entitled "General Penalty" are hereby adopted in their entirety, by reference, as though repeated verbatim herein.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication and be given the Number 50, 4th Series.

*Voting Aye: Casmey, Larson, Peterson, Schumacher, Pokrzywinski, Helms & Riopelle*  
*Voting Nay: None*

ATTEST:

PASSED: November 4, 2025

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025.

  
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Mayor

• CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS  
600 DEMERS AVENUE  
EAST GRAND FORKS, MN 56721

ORDINANCE NO. 50, 4TH SERIES

LAST DAY OF PUBLICATION  
NOVEMBER 12, 2025

INVOICE NUMBER  
2.13419

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
County of Polk

## Affidavit of Publication

1) Rollin Bergman, being duly sworn on oath says that he is the Publisher of the newspaper known as the **EXPONENT**, and has full knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3) The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied to this document was published in the newspaper are as follows **November 12, 2025**.

4) The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows: \$10.60/ column inch

5) Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Polk County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

By   
Rollin Bergman

Title Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to me this 12th day of November, 2025.  
Notary Public:



