

LAKE COUNTY NEWS-SUN

Highland Park councilman announces resignation date due to liquor license dispute; open to staying 'if the legislation changes'

— LAKE COUNTY —
NEWS-SUN

Lake County News-Sun logo.



By [CHLOE HILLES](#) | chilles@chicagotribune.com | Chicago Tribune

PUBLISHED: March 19, 2024 at 11:29 a.m. | UPDATED: March 19, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.

Highland Park City Councilman Jeff Heubler submitted his letter of resignation from the council Monday.



Hoobler promised to bring fresh ideas and an independent voice to city government, according to a news release he issued. His resignation will take effect on April 30.

“It has been an honor to serve the voters of Highland Park, and I will continue to fight to make our city the gem of the North Shore as it once was,” he wrote on his [councilman Facebook page](#). “Unfortunately, at this time, my lawyers have advised me to take this next step.”

Since February 29, Hoobler has not participated in any city meetings at the recommendation of Illinois Liquor Control Commission Special Agent Kevin Croke, and as of Monday he will take a leave of absence from all his council duties until the resignation date, his letter stated.

Top Videos - In Gaza, starving kids fill wards as famine sets in



Elected in April 2023, Hoobler was the [top vote-getter](#), despite being the only candidate not publicly endorsed by Mayor Nancy Rotering. Hoobler is also co-owner of Ravinia Brewing Company, a restaurant in the Ravinia neighborhood, for which he maintains a liquor license.





Highland Park City Council member Jeff Hoobler was elected in April 2023. (Credit: City of Highland Park)

Hoobler's decision to resign follows the [discovery of a "dormant" liquor license code](#) that prohibits the issuance of liquor licenses or renewals to elected or law enforcement officials.

An opportunity to amend the Prohibition-era law was before the council in February, but Rotering and council members Anthony Blumberg and Kim Stone rejected the proposal. Three other council members supported the amendment, and wanted to swiftly correct the city error. Hoobler recused himself from the discussion and vote.

The tie vote resulted in a rejection of the motion to amend the ordinance.

Prior to the discovery of the law, Hoobler's liquor license was renewed in December, and signed by Rotering, who serves as the city's liquor control commissioner.

The City Council will hold at least two meetings prior to the effective date of Hoobler's resignation, allowing members to reconsider the amendment before his resignation takes effect, the news release said.

"It is my understanding that following the scheduled City Council meeting on April 24th, there could be an opportunity for the City Council to vote to amend Highland Park's local ordinance Section 119.320 to permit Liquor License Holders to hold elected office and to sit on the council," Hoobler wrote in his resignation letter.

"My resignation is effective subsequent to that meeting allowing the City Council time to consider these items, follow normal processes and to see if the legislation changes, which would affect my position as an elected official who also holds a liquor license in Highland Park," the letter continued.

Many have publicly voiced support for Hoobler, both at the council meeting to consider amending the liquor



During public comment before the vote on amending the liquor code, dozens of residents shared their admiration and support for Hoobler, noting they elected him for his business experience and didn't find concern in his liquor license status.

[A group of restaurant and business owners](#) wrote an open letter to Rotering and the City Council, urging the governing body to amend the code, and arguing the code as written infringes on a restaurant owner's right to run for and hold elected office.

"We deserve the ability to represent the voices of the people we hear in our establishments daily. We deserve a seat at your table with a vote to match," the letter stated. "Restaurant owners and others who hold liquor licenses deserve the same rights afforded to real estate developers and owners of marijuana dispensaries or tobacco and prescription drug products (or any other type of business)."

Current Highland Park laws allow council members to sell cannabis or cigarettes, develop local real estate and own other types of businesses and property.

If Hoobler's seat on the council becomes vacant, the city will outline the next steps and communicate that information with the public, officials said.

chilles@chicagotribune.com

)

After 50 Years In Hollywood, He Lives In This Surprising Place Illinois

Can't Stop The Movies | Sponsored

New Electric Cars Cost Almost Nothing (Take A Look)

Suggest-me | Sponsored

'Never Going Back to Prime'—Why 20,000 Users Prefer This Shopping Secret

Online Shopping Tools | Sponsored

See Why Americans Are Switching To The Buick Envista SUV (The Price May Surprise You)

Frequent Searches | Sponsored

Camper Vans Have Done It Again. This Year's Lineup Has Left Us Speechless

SearchTopics | Sponsored

Search Now



Illinois Launches New Policy for Cars Used Less Than 50 Miles/day

Lifestyle Tips Today | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

The Most Stylish SUVs Of The Year Have Arrived

BestSearches | Search Ads | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

The Reimagined 2024 Outlander Might Be The Hottest SUV Of The Year

BestSearches | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

How Long Does \$1 Million Last After 60?

Fisher Investments | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

Three banks in Oak Park Are Offering Crazy High Returns on Savings Accounts

HIGH YIELD SAVINGS | Sponsored

Buyer's Remorse: 37 Cars To Avoid At All Costs!

Forbes | Sponsored

[Read More](#)

Chicago's Signature Room restaurant, lounge permanently closed

A message posted to the restaurant's Facebook and Instagram accounts Thursday said the closure, effective immediately, is permanent.

Chicago Tribune

Chef Michael Chiarello dies at 61 from allergic reaction

Michael Chiarello, a chef known for his Italian-inspired Californian restaurants who won an Emmy Award for best host for "Easy Entertaining With Michael Chiarello" and appeared ...

Chicago Tribune

7.49% High Yield CD Rates For Seniors In These Zipcodes - 2024 Rates

High CD Rates For Seniors | Sponsored

[Click Here](#)

The All New Mind Blowing BMW X5 M Is Finally Here (Take a Look)

Favorite Searches | Sponsored



6.95% High Yield CD Rates For Seniors In These Zipcodes - See 2024 Rates

High CD Rates For Seniors | Sponsored

Click Here

New Small Electric Car For Seniors - The Price May Surprise You

GoSearches | Sponsored

Arlington Heights proposes a tax cut compromise for the possible Chicago Bears’ suburban stadium site

Chicago Tribune

Union League Club selling its prized Monet painting to fund \$10 million renovation

Chicago Tribune

Forbes Releases the List of the World’s Richest in 2023

Forbes | Sponsored

Read More

The All New Mind Blowing BMW X2 Is Finally Here (Take a Look)

Favorite Searches | Sponsored

Affordable SUVs You Can Turn Into Camper Vans (Take A Look)

Suggest-me | Sponsored

TRENDING NATIONALLY

- 1

California’s largest new reservoir project in 50 years gains momentum
- 2

Unsupervised child in wheelchair broke both legs at school after sliding down ramp, lawsuit alleges
- 3

March Madness 2024: Printable bracket for the NCAA men’s basketball tournament
- 4

Social media influencer arrested in Irvine on suspicion of joining the attack on the US Capitol
- 5

Investigators hunted one of Florida’s most prolific serial rapists for decades. A true crime podcast uncovers new details



