



## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Sarah Greenwald, Assistant Clerk

**DATE:** May 5, 2026

**RE: Ordinance No. 2026-004 – Regulations Governing Open Burning, Recreational Fires, and Outdoor Fire Use**

**Agenda Item:** Work Session (Discussion Only)

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### **Background:**

Ordinance No. 2026-004 proposes to repeal and replace existing regulations governing open burning within the Town of Alpine. The ordinance is intended to reduce wildfire risk and provide clear standards for recreational fires, portable outdoor fireplaces, and other outdoor fire uses within Town limits.

The ordinance was approved on First Reading at the April 21, 2026, Town Council meeting.

### **Discussion:**

During First Reading, the Town Council identified several areas of the ordinance that require further review and potential revision prior to Second Reading.

Specific topics discussed include:

- **Setback Requirements:**  
The current requirement that recreational fires be located at least twenty-five (25) feet from structures or combustible materials (Section 4) was discussed, with consideration for whether this distance is appropriate and practical within Town limits.
- **Penalty Provisions:**  
The penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation (Section 10) was discussed, including whether the amount is appropriate or if adjustments or additional guidance are needed.
- **General Language and Clarity:**  
Council discussed refining portions of the ordinance for clarity and consistency, including definitions, enforcement language, and overall readability to ensure the ordinance is easily understood and enforceable.

Additional discussion may be needed to ensure alignment with existing fire restriction practices and local conditions.

At this time, revisions have not been incorporated, as staff is seeking direction from the Town Council on the above items.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that Ordinance No. 2026-004 be moved to a Work Session (Discussion Only) for the May 5, 2026, meeting.

This will allow the Town Council to:

- Provide specific direction on desired revisions
- Clarify outstanding questions from First Reading
- Ensure alignment on enforcement, definitions, and operational standards

Following Council direction, staff will revise the ordinance accordingly and bring it back for Second Reading at a future meeting.