



Staff Report

December 6, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Ordinance No. 21-017 Related to the Discharge and Sale of Fireworks

Presenter: Nick Swinhart, Fire Chief and Ron Schumacher, Fire Marshal

Time Estimate: 5 minutes

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BACKGROUND: During the severe fire conditions that existed around July 4, 2021, both Camas and Washougal ultimately banned sales and discharge of fireworks thru emergency order. This process was significantly more difficult in Camas due to differences in our fireworks ordinance. Council has requested staff draft ordinances that would put our fireworks regulations in line with Washougal.

SUMMARY: In the City of Washougal, the Fire Chief has sole discretion to ban the sale and discharge of fireworks in emergency fire conditions. In Camas, only the Mayor has authority to ban discharge and there is no direct statutory provision for banning sales. The City Attorney had created two draft ordinances for discussion. One version allowed the Fire Chief to ban sales and discharge and the alternate version allowed the Mayor to ban sales and discharge. During discussion at the November 15 workshop, Council indicated they preferred the draft ordinance that allows the Fire Chief to ban sales and discharge due to emergency fire conditions.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item?

Adopt new fireworks ordinance that allows Fire Chief to ban sales and discharge during emergency fire conditions.

What's the data? What does the data tell us?

It was discovered during the July 4, 2021 emergency fire conditions that it was very difficult to prohibit fireworks sales in the City of Camas.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

This topic has been discussed at several Council meetings during 2021 and also over many previous years.

Who will benefit from, or be burdened by this agenda item?

The safety of the community will benefit if we have easier regulatory ability to prohibit sales and discharge of fireworks during emergency fire conditions. Fireworks vendors would be burdened if fireworks sales were prohibited.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?

N/A

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact.

This ordinance change would have no known differential impact on underserved populations.

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibilities for people with disabilities?

N/A

What potential hurdles exist in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)?

Operationally, the department found it can be difficult to enforce fireworks discharge bans and banning sales was problematic under current language. Political support is needed to pass this new ordinance.

How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?

Fireworks vendors and the community will be engaged and informed as early as possible if sales and discharge need to be banned to ensure public safety.

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy or other adopted resolution?

N/A

BUDGET IMPACT: None

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends Council adopt Ordinance No. 21-017 and publish according to law.