



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Update Municipal Code Section 8.16 Fire Control Regulations

CEQA: Not a project

Recommendation: That Council: 1) review the proposed ordinance to repeal Municipal Code Chapter - 8.16 Fire Control Regulations and replace with new Municipal Code Chapter 8.16 Fire Control Regulations. Waive full reading and adopt Urgency Ordinance No. 823; 2) waive full reading and introduce Ordinance No. 824.

Prepared by: Mark Buttron -Fire Chief

Council Meeting Date: 04/25/2023

Date Prepared: 04/18/2025

Agenda: Administrative

Background Information: In August of 2017, the Council approved repealing Municipal Code Chapter 8.16, Fire Control Regulations and 8.36, Weed Abatement. These repealed chapters were replaced with updated Municipal Code Chapter 8.16, Fire Control Regulations, which includes vegetation management and yard debris removal. Based on our experience and observations over the years in implementing the code, the Fire Department believes the vegetation management process needs to be amended. To ensure the City's vegetation management ordinance appropriately addresses potential fire hazards, we recommend the following changes:

1. Define Fuel Modification Area, City, and Spark Arrester.
2. Separate and define requirements for Improved Properties of Less than One Acre, One to Five Acres, and Greater than Five acres.
3. Separate and define requirements for Unimproved Properties of Less than One Acre, One to Five Acres, and Greater than Five acres.
4. Better define Emergency Vehicle Access based on property size for Less than One Acre, One to Five Acres, and Greater than Five Acres.
5. Raise minimum height of Emergency Vehicle Access to 15'.
6. Provide for a Special Permit to authorize burning for professional entertainment purposes.
7. Update code to reference Fire Marshal or authorized representative.

Staff recommends this amendment to the municipal code be adopted as an urgency ordinance. The urgency ordinance may be introduced and adopted at a single meeting

and becomes effective immediately if adopted by a 4/5 vote. The standard ordinance is identical to the urgency ordinance but does not contain the specific findings of urgency. To make these amendments permanent without needing to defend urgency findings indefinitely, staff recommends that Council simultaneously consider a standard ordinance, adopted after first and second readings, which will take effect 30 days after adoption. Upon becoming effective, the ordinance will repeal the urgency ordinance. This is the City Attorney's standard procedure with respect to urgency ordinances that address long-term issues.

Council Goals/Objectives: Exceptional Public Safety consistent with the City of Grass Valley Strategic Plan

Fiscal Impact: None

Funds Available: N/A

Account #: N/A

Reviewed by:

Attachments:

Grass Valley Municipal Code Section 8.16

Urgency Ordinance No. 823 Amending Grass Valley Municipal Code Section 8.16

Non-Urgency Ordinance No. 824 Amending Grass Valley Municipal Code Section 8.16