

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401

July 1, 2015
12:00 p.m.

Councilors Present: George Brown, Betty Taylor, *Alan Zelenka via phone*, George Poling, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, *Claire Syrett via phone*, Chris Pryor

Mayor Piercy opened the July 1, 2015, City Council Emergency Meeting [pursuant to ORS 192.640(3)].

A. PUBLIC HEARING AND POSSIBLE ACTION: An Ordinance Prohibiting The Use Of Fireworks Without a Permit Within The City Limits In 2015; Declaring An Emergency; And Providing For An Immediate Effective Date.

1. Aaron Taylor – Opposed ban; could be financially devastating to vendors; print safety information.
2. Ruth Duemler – Supported ban; fire can happen quickly and dry brush needs to be removed.
3. Link Smith – Said outright ban will push people to forest land and fire danger is already high.
4. Chris Cheeh – Opposed ban; enforcement would be complicated especially in Santa Clara area.
5. Roxanne Watson – Supported ban; need to think of potential loss of life and property.
6. Jonathon Fargher – Opposed ban; illegal fireworks pose greatest danger; educate the public.
7. Mark Robinowitz – Supported ban; fireworks create big risk and fires will spread fast.

Council discussion:

- General support expressed for partial ban in South Hills as this area has the highest concentration of fire fuel and most challenging topography.
- A full ban would increase danger in outlying areas.
- Public safety emphasis should be on enforcement of illegal fireworks.
- Greater public communication effort needed.
- Explore the designation of safe zones at which to light legal fireworks.

Mayor Piercy determined that no councilors were opposed to taking immediate action on the proposed ordinance and advised that two-thirds of the council would need to vote in the affirmative in order to have an immediate effective date.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Evans, seconded by Councilor Taylor, moved to adopt the South Hills version of Council Bill 5147, an ordinance prohibiting the use of fireworks.
PASSED 8:0

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Evans, seconded by Councilor Taylor, moved that the council approve the use of up to \$10,000 of Council contingency for additional enforcement efforts related to unlawful use of fireworks. **PASSED 8:0**

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Chuck Crockett

Chuck Crockett
Deputy City Recorder