



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Jessica Matson, Legislative & Information Services Director/City Clerk

SUBJECT: Supplemental Information
Agenda Item 11.a. – Discussion Regarding Municipal Code Requirements Related to the Sale and Discharge of Class C (“Safe and Sane”) Fireworks

DATE: February 22, 2022

Attached is correspondence received prior to 4:00 p.m. for the above referenced item.

cc: City Manager
Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director
Five Cities Fire Chief
City Attorney
City Clerk
City Website (or public review binder)

From: [Jeri Edwards](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Ban all fireworks: 2/22/22 agenda item
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022 1:23:56 PM

I fully support a complete ban of ALL fireworks in the city of Arroyo Grande. The drought conditions continue to exacerbate our wildfire risks and for the city council to turn its back on the high fire risk that ALL fireworks pose is to be irresponsible to the citizens of Arroyo Grande. I remember meeting personally with both the Fire Chief and the former Police Chief about this issue and both acknowledged that ALL fireworks, which of course include the 'safe and sane' fireworks, are a fire hazard.

The city council can assist the nonprofits in helping them transition their fundraising efforts away from fireworks to something else that does not create a high risk of wildfire and injuries.

The loss of our community or even some homes in our community should be valued far above that of the proceeds from the sale of fireworks. Playing with fire should never be an option.

Jeri Edwards

From: [JoAnn Hames](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Petition to ban all fireworks
Date: Friday, February 18, 2022 11:49:30 AM

As suggested by the petition, comments should be emailed to the city council before the scheduled meeting on 2/22/2022. I have never objected to the use of safe and sane fireworks on the fourth of July to compliment the holiday celebrations. However, because of the uncontrolled use of illegal fireworks in Oceano and the surrounding area at all times of the year (not just the fourth of July) it has forced me to support the banning of all fireworks.

Many times I have been awakened by loud booms on work and school nights and they are a very frightening experiences at that time of night. Plus I have to get up early for work the next day and it makes it very hard to get back to sleep expecting another boom to happened at any time. My poor little dog shakes and tries to find places to hide from the noise even though I give her medication. I should not have to bear the cost of medication for my dog because of these illegal activities. I think if you were to poll everyone in this area the majority would be for banning fireworks, especially because of the high fire danger that now plagues California. I realize that because of the increase in other criminal activities in this area that the police are overwhelmed with calls, but this is a serious problem also because of the danger to the public from fire.

Thank you

From: [Judi Nelson](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Banning fireworks
Date: Friday, February 18, 2022 4:36:08 PM

Please ban these. Our veterans and pets suffer each July 4. In addition as we are in a severe drought a spark from these fireworks can start a fire. There are other ways for these organizations to raise funds
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Linda Busek](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting February 22, 2022 Agendized Fireworks Discussion Comment
Date: Friday, February 18, 2022 10:35:23 AM

Hello Mayor, City Councilors, and Staff:

I see that this week's City Council Agenda is quite full with many important topics, including choosing the new District Voting Maps and the Fireworks Ban discussion. Because I have in the past had difficulty logging on to the remote system, I'm submitting my Fireworks Ban comments by email. I trust they will be read into the record when the Agenda item comes up.

AG City Council Meeting February 22, 2022

Good Evening, Mayor, Council Members, and Staff:

My name is Linda Busek and I live near Soto Community Park. I'm urging you to revisit the issue of a ban on fireworks here in Arroyo Grande for a number of reasons.

First, we're experiencing yet another season of drought and California has suffered some of the worst wildfires in its history. The devastating loss of the towns of Greenville and Paradise to wildfires must be a wake-up call.

Second, Veterans suffering from PTSD are at risk from fireworks. For individuals with PTSD, explosions and noisy displays can raise anxiety levels and bring back traumatic memories of gunfire, bomb detonations, and terrifying conditions. We should honor our patriots, not terrorize them!

Third, Pets and wildlife are severely impacted too. Every year hundreds of animals' lives are endangered by fireworks. They don't understand what is causing the loud bangs and bright flashes. Shelters report dramatic intake during fireworks season as many animals attempt to run away from, or hide from, the bangs.

Where legal fireworks are allowed illegal fireworks are a follow-on problem. There is a black market for fireworks in places where legal sales are permitted. Cities that ban fireworks don't have large quantities of illegal fireworks and the resulting criminal activity. However, Council should consider beefing up enforcement during fireworks season, like Pismo Beach does, by engaging off-duty police and safety officers.

I know there are folks who say they would miss the tradition of July 4th and New Year's Eve fireworks. But professional fireworks events can be the new tradition. Nearby Pismo Beach puts on a family-friendly, welcoming event that everyone can enjoy safely.

Finally, the non-profits will insist they need to sell fireworks to fund their causes. Note: Cities where fireworks are banned have successfully pivoted to other fundraising means. The money the community groups and non-profits take in is less than the cost of a replacing ONE Arroyo Grande home. Is that really worth it?

So, before we risk losing this wonderful community we love, we must do everything we can to ameliorate the fire danger risk while respecting our veterans and safe guarding our pets. As our elected leaders, we appeal to you to do the responsible thing and ban personal fireworks. Keep Arroyo Grande safe and flourishing. Thank you!

From: [Cheryl Storton](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: FIREWORKS BAN
Date: Saturday, February 19, 2022 12:44:47 PM

I believe that it is a good idea to ban the sale of and use of personal fireworks in Arroyo Grande. We are in an extreme drought and we should not encourage this activity that could cause fires.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Storton
Arroyo Grande

From: [Suzanne Crouch](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Comment on Fireworks ban
Date: Friday, February 18, 2022 4:50:18 PM

Dear Members of the City Council

I hope you will vote to ban fireworks from our community as many other cities have already done in California due to the great risk of fire danger in a state suffering from drought.

Fireworks are also very frightening for our pets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pastor Bob Crouch

Resident of Arroyo Grande



[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Links contained in this email have been replaced. If you click on a link in the email above, the link will be analyzed for known threats. If a known threat is found, you will not be able to proceed to the destination. If suspicious content is detected, you will see a warning.

From: [Arlene Lozano Heinrichs](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Fwd: Fireworks
Date: Monday, February 21, 2022 9:36:35 AM

City Council members:

I support a ban on the fireworks in the city limits. Due to our current drought conditions I feel we can still be patriotic in a much safer and sane manner.

I feel we should protect the members of our community who are veterans with PTSD as well as our canine friends.

Parades, a light show or joining with Pismo Beach might allow us to celebrate safely and save costs. Non-profits might sell glow in the dark lights or other items to earn funds.

Thank-you,
A. Heinrichs

--

Arlene