



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Monday, May 14, 2018, 7:00 PM
City Hall, 616 NE 4th Avenue

SPECIAL MEETING - PUBLIC HEARING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. MEETING ITEM

A. Fireworks Public Hearing

Details: The Council has requested that a Public Hearing be held to determine if the City should revise the Fireworks Code. The City currently allows fireworks to be discharged on July 2nd and 3rd and December 31st. Options include keeping the code the same, limiting it to July 4th and December 31st, limiting it to "Safe and Sane" ground level fireworks, or a complete ban of all fireworks. After the Council has heard public testimony and written comments, Council will direct staff how to proceed at a future Council Workshop Meeting.

Presenter: Pete Capell, City Administrator

Recommended Action: This item is for Council's Information only.

 [Fireworks Memorandum](#)

[Public Comments Received](#)

III. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: The City welcomes public meeting citizen participation. For accommodations; call 360.834.6864.



MEMO

To: City Council
FROM: City Administrator Pete Capell
DATE: May 8, 2018
SUBJECT: Fireworks

On May 14, 2018, City Council will hold a Public Hearing to receive public testimony regarding fireworks regulations in the City of Camas. We are asking input on four possible scenarios below.

At the workshop on May 21, 2018, we will ask Council to give direction to staff on how to proceed. If the recommendation is to change our current code, staff will work with the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to present Council at the June 4, 2018 or June 18, 2018 Council Meeting (will take effect in 2019, one year after adoption, per [RCW 70.77.250\(4\)](#)).

The scenarios include:

1. Current City Code – Consumer fireworks may be purchased and sold within the City of Camas, of any year:

- July 2nd & 3rd – between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- July 4th – between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m./midnight
- July 5th – between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- December 29th – 31st – Between 12:00 p.m./noon and 11:00 p.m.

Consumer fireworks may be discharged within the City of Camas, of any year:

- July 3rd – between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- July 4th – between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m./midnight
- Between December 31st 6:00 p.m. and January 1st 1:00 a.m. of the subsequent year

2. Modify to allow fireworks on July 4th and New Years – Consumer fireworks may be purchased and sold within the City of Camas, of any year (no change):

- July 2nd & 3rd – between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- July 4th – between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m./midnight
- July 5th – between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- December 29th – 31st – Between 12:00 p.m./noon and 11:00 p.m.

Consumer fireworks may be discharged within the City of Camas, of any year: (the change is the elimination of July 3rd)

- July 4th – between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m./midnight
- Between December 31st 6:00 p.m. and January 1st 1:00 a.m. of the subsequent year

3. Safe and Sane Fireworks - The sale, purchase, possession or use of fireworks that fly, explode, or travel more than one foot into the air or more than six feet on the ground within the city of Camas, Washington, constitutes a public nuisance, and violators of this chapter may be subject to civil or criminal enforcement, or any other remedy allowed by law.
4. Ban all Fireworks - The sale, purchase, possession or use of fireworks within the City of Camas, Washington constitutes a public nuisance, and violators may be subject to civil or criminal enforcement, or any other remedy allowed by law.

14
May 2, 2018

Subject: Absentee For May 7th Proposed Firework Ordinance Meeting For The City Of Camas

I, Christopher J Kralik of 631 NW 18th Loop am in favor of abolishing the use of aerial exploding fireworks within the city limits of Camas, WA.

The factors include:

- 1) The widespread threat of fires that the CWFD would not be able to handle. Global warming is creating a more intense fire scenario.**
- 2) The noise and the debris through out our neighborhoods.**
- 3) Some residents do not obey the existing law. Fireworks continue through out the night after the cut off time.**
- 4) Animals are affected by the noise.**
- 5) People from outside the city limits are coming here to set off their fireworks, due to the ban from other cities like Vancouver and Washougal.**

Thank you!

Christopher J Kralik



I emailed Chris to confirm to him that this subject is on the May 14th Public Hearing date. He indicated he still may be unable to attend that date either. He offered to supply another letter referencing the correct date & hold him that wasn't necessary
-B Bacon

Bernie Bacon

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Jordan [mailto:susanevansjordan@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2018 5:02 PM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: Fireworks

As a resident of Camas, I hope to see fireworks restricted to public displays.

1. Many of our military veterans suffer from PTSD, and report distress when fireworks are ignited in their neighborhoods. Out of respect for them, I believe we should not allow private fireworks.
2. Hot, dry weather provides dangerous fuel for fires to be ignited by fireworks. Our fire department is understaffed as it is. Fighting a fire caused by fireworks is unnecessary.
3. The loud noise made by many fireworks awakens babies and young children. It seems selfish to disturb them. Exhausted parents of babies need to have a break.
4. Although I am not a pet owner, I know that many dogs and cats are traumatized by the noise of fireworks. Even when they are closed up in their home, the noise is disturbing.

These are some of the main reasons I hope fireworks will be disallowed in Camas, other than in public fireworks shows.

I am neither a Veteran, a parent of young children, nor a pet owner, but I understand their plight.

I believe it is the responsibility of our city government to protect its citizens.

Thank you.

Susan Jordan

1220 NW 23rd Ave.

Camas, WA 98607

Bernie Bacon

-----Original Message-----

From: Heather DeVore [mailto:heatherd74@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, May 04, 2018 2:26 AM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: Fireworks in Camas

Warm greetings,

I would like the city of Camas to follow Vancouver in banning fireworks. I have lived in Camas for 14 years. Each year I have seen an increase in fireworks here in our town, a lot of which are not legal nor handled in a safe and responsible manner.

The fireworks go on for days and on the 4th late into the night. My neighborhood feels like a war zone. There are numerous people affected in a negative way, such as our military men and women who have come home from war with PTSD and are re-traumatized by the sounds of fireworks, also people that have to work the next morning and people that have animals etc.

I for one have two dogs and spend the 4th of July and surrounding days every year trying to care for large traumatized and confused pets late into the night when I have to work in the morning.

I understand people want to celebrate but I feel the amount of fireworks in our town has gotten out of control and become extremely unsafe.

Our fire department's resources should be put to use on calls that are not firework related and in general brought on by negligent people.

There are multiple places that put on large SAFE firework displays that people can go enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Heather DeVore

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

-----Original Message-----

From: J Reed [mailto:reedme2004@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, May 04, 2018 7:26 PM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: Fireworks

I think that fireworks have gotten completely out of hand, they aren't just sparklers and ground fireworks any longer. They are large and loud. I wish they would stop being legal. They are a disturbance to many people.

- 1) Veterans, pets and wild animals are terrified. We shouldn't have to be prisoners in our homes. There is no where to go to escape the noise. The outside animals have no where to hide.
- 2) Fireworks land in neighbors yards, trees, and on roofs and are fire hazards. Our neighbors had burn marks in their backyard lawn from flying burning debris. We have to stay home to protect our property.
- 3) People do not abide by the hours permitted and you don't know where they are coming from to report them. Some people have to get up early to go to work and cant sleep because of the noise. This goes on for days.
- 4) We have to clean our street, drive ways, and roofs, from firework debris.
- 5) We don't need anymore fires like our precious gorge caused by people playing with fire.

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Bill Udy [mailto:udy3567@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 8:31 AM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: fireworks testimony

I don't mind a few kids lighting sparklers in front of their house before bedtime, with loving parents hovering over them.

But I don't appreciate adults disrespecting their neighbors. Every year, we have adults and older teenagers spending a small fortune on fireworks and spending hours blowing them off in public spaces in my neighborhood (Parker Estates), creating a mess that they may or may not half-heartedly clean up. Then long into the night the noise pollution continues, sometimes with earth shaking explosions.

My two cats get so distressed, I finally had to have my veterinarian prescribe a tranquilizer for them.

Sincerely,

Bill Udy
3714 NW 27th Ave
Camas, Washington
Cell: 503-754-1980
E-mail: udy3567@comcast.net

Bernie Bacon

-----Original Message-----

From: Ophelia Pasibe-Glasser [<mailto:ophelia@jodyglasser.net>]

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 1:15 PM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: Fireworks in Camas

Thank you for posting on Nextdoor, unfortunately, I'm unable to attend the scheduled meeting but wanted to give input. After last year's fires at the gorge, I am completely against having any fireworks within the City of Camas. If the city wants to sponsor a fireworks show over the river, it's fine but irresponsible neighbors shooting fireworks, NO. I've had fireworks come very close to our home and it has always scared me, not to mention my pet. Even with time restrictions, people aren't respecting them and continue to shoot past time allotted. With a skeleton crew in the Camas FD, it isn't worth risking fires by allowing individual use of fireworks. I think they should be completely banned in Camas.

Ophelia Glasser

Grand Ridge Dr.

Twitter: @op_omom

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Scholtes [mailto:ron.scholtes@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 5:49 PM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: 4th of July fireworks in Cdmass

From: Ron and Susan Scholtes

2620 NW Quartz St, Camas

We do not want fireworks that shoot in Camas, and here are our reasons:

*It is not safe.

*Surrounding communities have outlawed them as dangerous.

*When fired we have had them stick on our home and left burn marks.

*They are messy and are not cleaned up.

*The plastic shards are in our yard, on our property, and in the street. These are found months after the event. People may step on them.

*The papers are fired onto our roof, in both our front and back yard. We are not sure if we will get caught on fire as this goes on until 12-1 in the morning. Looks messy too.

*They are damaging to our cars.

Please outlaw this unsafe event in our community.

Sent from my iPhone.

Bernie Bacon

From: Fran Bylsma <mazamiler1@comcast.net>

Date: May 7, 2018 at 7:36:19 PM PDT

To: citycouncilgrp@cityofcamas.us

Subject: Fireworks

Thank you for the meeting to open the fireworks issue. Please align with Vancouver and, at least, Washougal to make our town safer and saner by eliminating the fireworks hazards. Thank you. Fran Bylsma

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: J L [<mailto:jtlorincz@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 9:40 AM
To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Fireworks in Camas

Dear Bernie Bacon,

It was nice to meet you yesterday at the meeting!

As I won't be able to attend the meeting next Monday about the Fireworks in Camas, I am sending you my take on it.

1. It seems to me that even though there is a 3 day limit on the fireworks, it is not being honored by the public. I know this is an event that draws people from nearby cities (far and near) where fireworks are already banned. So I am not sure if it's the locals or the guests who don't obey the rules. One thing is for sure that the time limit is not being honored and is impossible to enforce. If fireworks will have to be a THING in Camas, I'd be happier with a one day celebration period.
2. 4th of July is (usually) one of the driest day around here therefore the event becomes a potential fire hazard. As of right now Camas can not afford to keep enough firefighters on staff. I wonder, with the growing population, increasing amount of fireworks, understaffed fire stations what will it take to the city to recognize this catch 22?
3. The small celebrational fireworks don't concern me. I am however frightened by the mortar like illegal bombs that shake my house when fired nearby.
4. My heart goes out to all the veterans whom are dealing with PTSD and are triggered by fireworks, and also the pets/farm animals/wildlife that are shaking/trembling, some of them even causing injuries to themselves in the attempt to hide/escape.
5. My last point is about cleanup. One would think it is a common courtesy to clean up after self when playing with fireworks even if it was in the middle of the city's road. However, the day after fireworks I am driving through neighborhoods that are littered with leftover papers, plastics, and boxes blowing all over. Nature is forced to clean up after us. How safe is it for all that explosive litter to get into the drain system and into our waters eventually? Are not those posing some additional danger not only to the environment but also to the public's health?

Overall, even though I am not totally against fireworks, I feel strongly that the time frame should be shortened and new guidelines created and enforced to preserve public safety/health. Maybe appointing areas to be safely using fireworks could be a solution?

Thank you for reading my points.

Sincerely,

Judit Lorincz

Bernie Bacon

From: Lynette Shaw [mailto:lynettejshaw@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 10:43 AM
To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Fireworks Input

Hi there -

I received your email address from Next Door. I unfortunately missed the window for the survey related to fireworks in Camas so am sending you my input via email.

I know there are quite a few folks on both sides of the fence on this one. My husband and I are against the current fireworks policy in Camas. Our dog was traumatized since our first 4th of July and would not go walking at night any longer. I know many neighbor pets went missing (and some never found) or were left very frightened. People leave their mess all over the street for someone else to clean up and I worry one year my house is going to catch on fire from careless use.

We were kind of blown away by the level of fireworks allowed when we moved here 3 years ago, this is probably the only thing that bums us out about Camas. We love it here but seriously, the fireworks are a bit out of control and 4th of July is a holiday we no longer look forward. I think we will plan to go out of town this year so our pets and family do not have to withstand the trauma.

Would love to see fireworks limited to 1 day only and made the safe and sane kind. In addition, let the community pitch in for a big fireworks show done by professionals, what a great way to celebrate with our neighbors.

Thank you for listening!

Lynette Shaw
Grass Valley