

City Council Agenda Memo

From: Pete Bolzer, Interim Fire Chief

Council Meeting: June 8, 2021

Subject: Public Fireworks Discharge Location

Person(s) Responsible: Pete Bolzer, Interim Fire Chief

Summary:

The City of Brookings does not allow residential discharge of fireworks. At the May 11, 2021 City Council meeting, council requested staff to investigate and review the potential discharge of residential fireworks at an identified location. Specifically, the City of Watertown was identified as having allowed consumer fireworks at the Anza Soccer Complex. Staff will provide its findings.

Background:

Brookings does not allow the residential discharge of fireworks within the City limits.

Historically, the City of Watertown has allowed consumer fireworks discharge in the area annexed by Watertown Resolution Y-1832, an area located around Lake Kampeska. (See attachment). This area includes city parks and state lands. Due to a described "war-like" atmosphere and in the interest of public safety, the City of Watertown Resolution 20-28 rescinded the approval for Stoke-Thomas Lake City Pak, and identified the Anza Soccer Complex as a designated location for consumer discharge of fireworks. This area was designated after Dan Raderschadt, President of Lew's Fireworks, Incorporated, presented a proposal to the City of Watertown outlining safety and supervision requirements. Raderschadt proposed the use of the Anza Soccer Complex with the following requirements.

- The area was marked off using flags to provide the National Fire Protection Association required 150 feet fallout area. This resulted in 36 discharge locations.
- Sheets of plywood were provided to create a stable base for fountains and other devices with small bases.
- Water was provided at each shooting location to cool spent fireworks prior to disposal.
- Signs listing applicable rules were posted. (See attachment.)
- All participants signed a waiver before entering their designated area.
- Groups were solicited for clean-up the following day.

The fireworks shooting area at Anza Soccer Complex is supervised by Lew's Fireworks, Incorporated, with limited involvement by city staff. No fire department standby is provided.

Item Details:

After review of city land within the limits of the City of Brookings, the Fishback Soccer Complex has been identified as the only facility to provide adequate space for such an endeavor. Staff recommends an Ordinance revision to occur only if a local business or organization develops a future safety and operational plan approved by the City Manager, Fire Department, Police Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and City Attorney.

A Council Resolution could be passed as late as June 22nd for the 2021 season if a business or organization provides an amendable plan. Staff would mirror the City of Watertown's guiding documents.

When comparing the City of Watertown's Soccer Complex to the City of Brookings Soccer Complex, there are more residential dwellings within proximity. Therefore, Council should consider when making their decision, the impact to those within proximity of this location. Hours of discharge, safety requirements, and type of allowable fireworks. Other restrictions may assist in regulating the overall impact.

Legal Consideration:

None at this time.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

When considering the allowable discharge of fireworks, the strategic plan consideration that aligns with this discussion is providing a Safe, Inclusive, Connected Community.

Financial Consideration:

None.

Options and Recommendation:

The City Council has the following options:

1. Approve as presented
2. Amend
3. Deny
4. Move the item to a study session
5. Do nothing

Staff recommends denial at this time because of time restraints to provide an appropriate plan. However, approval is advised of the resolution if an entity provides an agreeable safety plan, including all items identified for a safer discharge of fireworks by June 16, 2021, for the June 22 Council meeting.

Supporting Documentation:

Resolution

Fishback Soccer Complex Map

Watertown Fireworks Zone Map

Watertown Ordinance No. 20-22

Watertown Resolution 20-28

Anza Fireworks Rules