



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, January 08, 2002

Council Session

Item F4

#8712 Amendment to City Code Restricting Firearms Discharging in Zoning Jurisdiction

During the past several years, the City has received an increasing number of complaints concerning persons, generally goose hunters, discharging firearms close enough to structures to cause the property to be struck by falling pellets. While most of the complaints have come from hunting activities in the fields south of Stolley Park Road and west of US Highway 281, there have been complaints made concerning deer hunters shooting along the Wood River east of Shady Bend Road and shotgun discharges immediately south of Rainbow Lake. Neb. Rev. Stat., §37-523 prohibits hunting any wild bird within a 200 yard radius of an inhabited dwelling or livestock feed lot. The National Rifle Association (NRA) minimum standard for shotfall zones for shotgun competition is a distance of not less than 300 yards. Because the pellets used for waterfowl hunting is substantially larger than that which is used for shotgun competition, 300 yards should be regarded as an absolute minimum safety zone. Accordingly, in order to enhance public safety, we are proposing an amendment to the City Code prohibiting discharging firearms within 300 yards of any inhabited structure within the zoning jurisdiction.

Staff Contact: Charlie Cuyppers/SherryP

ORDINANCE NO. 8712

An ordinance to amend Chapter 20 of the Grand Island City Code; to amend Section 20-8 pertaining to discharging fire arms; to repeal Section 20-8 as now existing, and any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; and to provide for publication and the effective date of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1. Section 20-8 of the Grand Island City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

§20-8. Discharging Firearms, Air Rifles, etc.

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person, except a law enforcement officer in the course of his or her duties, to discharge or fire a ~~gun, pistol,~~ firearm, cannon, air ~~gun, rifle,~~ sling shot, or other item designed for the discharge of bullets, missiles, rocks, or other dangerous items by the operation thereof, anywhere within the City.

(B) It shall be unlawful for any person, except a law enforcement officer in the course of his or her duties, to discharge or fire a firearm, cannon, air gun, sling shot, or other item designed for the discharge of bullets, missiles, rocks, or other dangerous items by the operation thereof anywhere within three hundred (300) yards of any occupied structure in the area two miles beyond and adjacent to the corporate boundaries of the City.

~~(C)(B)~~ The above prohibition shall not apply to a location designed and utilized for the safe usage of such items, whether established or constructed on a temporary or permanent basis.

SECTION 2. Section 20-8 as now existing, and any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and hereby are, repealed.

SECTION 3. That this ordinance shall be in force and take effect from and after its passage and publication, within fifteen days in one issue of the Grand Island Independent as provided by law.

Enacted: January 8, 2002.

Ken Gnadt, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

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| Approved as to Form | ? | _____ |
| January 3, 2002 | ? | City Attorney |