



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Study Session

## Item -4

**Discussion Concerning Fireworks**

Staff Contact: Shannon Oster

# Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Shannon Oster, Assistant to the City Administrator  
**Meeting:** October 18, 2011  
**Subject:** Discussion Concerning Fireworks  
**Item #'s:** 4  
**Presenter(s):** Shannon Oster, Assistant to the City Administrator

## Background

The City Council discussed the potential expansion of firework sales into December during a study session on November 16, 2011. At that time there was no interest from Council in changing the City Code to allow for firework sales in December. Some Council members have expressed an interest in discussing the topic of fireworks.

## Discussion

Fireworks are regulated through Grand Island's City Code Chapter 16, Fire Protection. Each year fireworks are sold from temporary stands from June 27 to July 4, and residents may discharge fireworks during that period only, with restricted hours. Each stand is required to submit a detailed application and \$400, for a permit. The Fire Department's Life Safety Division is responsible for the oversight of these stands, accomplished through an extensive inspection process that begins prior to and throughout the seven day fireworks period. Over the past several years, the number of stands has increased from 28 in 2005, up to 39 in 2011. Public displays of fireworks, or frework shows, are regulated by the State Fire Marshal. The City has limited involvement in public displays, beyond indicating approval.

When compared to other Nebraska communities, Grand Island has similar laws pertaining to fireworks. There are some variations in the length of time vendors are permitted to sell fireworks, and shorter hours of discharge. Some communities have adopted an additional December season, however some will cap the number of stands allowed. Like other many communities, the City of Grand Island does not host a 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display. This is typically through private sponsors, or organizations like a local Chamber of Commerce.

## **Conclusion**

This item is presented to the City Council in a Study Session to allow for any questions to be answered and to create a greater understanding of the issue at hand.

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# Fireworks

October 18, 2011


## Current Practice


### Firework Stands


 City regulates the sale of fireworks through temporary stands


 City Code Chapter 16-12 to 16-22 are the appropriate statutes

 Allowed June 27 to July 4

 Fee: \$400 per stand

 Vendor submits an application to the Fire Department

 Inspections occur several times-prior to opening, when stocked, daily, and after July 4

 Many of these stands are fundraisers for non-profits or service organizations

Year	Stands	Fee	Revenue
2011	39	\$400	\$15,600
2010	34	\$400	\$13,600
2009	32	\$400	\$12,800
2008	27	\$400	\$10,800
2007	30	\$200	\$6,000
2006	32	\$200	\$6,400
2005	28	\$200	\$5,600

## Current Practice

- 🇺🇸 When residents can use fireworks:
  - 🇺🇸 Allowed: June 27 to July 3 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
  - 🇺🇸 July 4 8:00 a.m. – midnight
- 🇺🇸 Public firework displays:
  - 🇺🇸 First, individuals apply with the State Fire Marshal
    - 🇺🇸 Small fee (\$10)
  - 🇺🇸 Second, City is notified/indicates approval
    - 🇺🇸 No fee charged by City because it is a community service
    - 🇺🇸 Five displays in 2011 and in 2010

## Since the last time Council discussed fireworks

- 🇺🇸 Last discussed by Council on November 16, 2010
  - 🇺🇸 Item was brought forward after passage of LB880
    - 🇺🇸 Allows cities to change fire code to allow an additional fireworks season December 28 – January 1
  - 🇺🇸 At that time there were only *four* first class cities, including Lincoln and Omaha that had expanded their season
    - 🇺🇸 Now there are *six* of these cities that have an expanded fireworks season
    - 🇺🇸 However some places cap the number of stands allowed
  - 🇺🇸 Fire Department did not/does not support a lengthened season

## State Practice – Cities in Nebraska

- 🇺🇸 Similar time frame for selling and discharging in the summer:
  - 🇺🇸 June 27-July 4
  - 🇺🇸 8:00 a.m. to 11:00p.m./midnight (4<sup>th</sup> of July)
- 🇺🇸 Stand permit/fee ranges from \$50 up to \$1,000 (GI=\$400)
  - 🇺🇸 Those cities that are less than \$400 usually have an additional fee with the permit deposit
- 🇺🇸 Public firework displays – not many cities sponsor their own display



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## Potential Considerations

- 🇺🇸 Changing the dates of sale or discharge?
- 🇺🇸 Adding a second season in December?
- 🇺🇸 Should the \$400/per stand fee be changed?

