



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

Study Session

Item -5

Discussion on Fireworks

Staff Contact: Tim Hiemer

Council Agenda Memo

From: Tim Hiemer, Fire Operations Division Chief

Meeting: April 3, 2012

Subject: Consumer Fireworks

Item #'s: 5

Presenter(s): Tim Hiemer, Fire Operations Division Chief

Background

The topic of fireworks was discussed at the Oct. 18, 2011 Study Session and in that meeting four main topics were discussed: no New Year sales or discharge, need to review the current fee schedule, shorten sales and discharge period, and control the quantity of stands. These four main discussion points were researched and compared with five other cities in Nebraska; Kearney, Hastings, Fremont, North Platte, and Bellevue.

Discussion

While researching the key points from the previous Study Session we found that none of our comparison cities allowed fireworks for the New Year holiday. Also only a very limited number of cities in Nebraska allow fireworks during New Year.

In reviewing our fee schedule it was determined that our fees collected for permits do not cover the City's expense related to the sale and discharge of fireworks. Last year the combined cost of city resources expended because of fireworks was in excess of \$20,000; the City only charged a total of \$15,600 for permits.

Length of period for sales found the longest was 10 days (Bellevue) and the shortest was six (Kearney). This leaves Grand Island in the middle with eight days allowed for sales and discharge. It should be noted that other cities had even shorter periods for sales with Beatrice allowing 4 days and Lincoln allowing 2 days.

Times for discharge showed that ending times prior to the 4th ranged from 10 PM to 12 PM, Grand Island ending time is at 11 PM. The discharge of fireworks on the 4th is allowed till midnight in all compared cities.

Number of stands per city varied widely from an average of eight stands in Fremont to an average of 33 stands in Grand Island. The only city in the comparisons to limit the number of stand is Bellevue with a limit of 20 non-profit stands. The majority of cities in the state have no limit on stands; only in the Omaha metro area do we find limits placed on the number of stands.

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.

Proposals for possible discussion are:

Raise the permit fee to \$650. This will allow the city to recover the expenses associated with fireworks. This may also aid in limiting the number of stands.

Cap the number of stands at 40; this will easily be the most fireworks stands in any city in the state.

Shorten the days allowed for sales and discharge from eight to six days. Shorten discharge times from 8 AM to 11 PM to 8 AM to 10 PM, except for the 4th which will stay at midnight.

Require a \$1 million liability policy with the City as an additional insured. This will help to limit the City's.

SALE and DISCHARGE of CONSUMER FIREWORKS

Council Study Session Oct. 18, 2011

- 🌊 No New Years sales or discharge
- 🌊 Review current fee schedule for recovery of costs
- 🌊 Shorten sales period and discharge times
- 🌊 Control the quantity of stands
 - 🌊 Give preference to non-profit groups

Permit Fee

Grand Island	\$400
Kearney	\$350
Hastings	\$300
Fremont	\$1,500
North Platte	\$250
Bellevue	\$500

Days of Sales

Grand Island	6/27-7/4	8 days
Kearney	6/29-7/4	6 days
Hastings	6/27-7/4	8 days
Fremont	6/27-7/4	8 days
North Platte	6/28-7/4	7 days
Bellevue	6/25-7/4	10 days

Discharge Times

July 4th

Grand Island	8 AM to 11 PM	8 AM to Midnight
Kearney	8 AM to 10 PM	8 AM to Midnight
Hastings	9 AM to 11 PM	8 AM to Midnight
Fremont	8 AM to 11 PM	8 AM to Midnight
North Platte	Noon to 10 PM	8 AM to Midnight
Bellevue	8 AM to 11 PM	8 AM to Midnight

Average Number of Stands

Grand Island	39
Kearney	23
Hastings	15
Fremont	8
North Platte	16
Bellevue	20*

*Limited to 20 Non-profit stands

Number of Stands in Grand Island




2011	39
2010	34
2009	32
2008	27
2007	30
2006	32

Additional Information Grand Island

- 🚒 City regulates the sale of fireworks through temporary stands
 - 🚒 City Code Chapter 16-12 to 16-22 are the appropriate statutes
- 🚒 No limit on number of firework stands (39 in 2011)
- 🚒 Inspections occur several times during operation: when stocked, daily spot inspection during selling period, and after July 4 to insure stands are properly removed

Additional Workload


Fire Dept.

-  Stands are inspected
-  Fireworks are inspected for compliance
-  Respond to firework related emergencies

Police Dept.

-  Respond to and document complaint calls







Communication Center

-  Process calls for emergency services

Public Works

-  Additional material in the street and storm sewer system

Firework Related Cost to City

 Fire Dept.	\$8,400
 Inspections, Emergency responses	
 Police	\$9,800
 Responding to and recording calls	
 Communication	\$2,200
 Answering and processing calls	
Total	\$20,400

Proposed Changes

- 🌊 Raise permit fee to \$650
 - 🌊 This will cover the additional cost to the city related to fireworks
- 🌊 Shorten sales to six days, June 29 through July 4
- 🌊 Cap number of stands at 40
 - 🌊 Previous permit holder given preference
- 🌊 Set application period deadline May 1st
- 🌊 Shorten discharge times from 8 AM to 11 PM to 8 AM to 10 PM except on the 4th leave as is

Proposed Changes

- 🌊 Require \$1 million liability policy with City as additional insured
 - 🌊 Approximate cost \$900 per stand
 - 🌊 Most retailers have coverage
 - 🌊 Aids in limiting the City's liability
 - 🌊 No or little cost to retailer to add the City
- 🌊 Enforce NFPA 1124 code for storage of fireworks
 - 🌊 Will keep stored fireworks out of residential areas

Results

- ➊ Fewer dates and shorter hours for discharge of fireworks
- ➋ Cap number of stands at 40
- ➌ Adjusts revenue to offset additional cost incurred by the City