

**City of Deer Park
Special City Council Meeting called by Mayor Tim Verzal
For The Purpose of Considering Ban of Fireworks
Minutes
June 30, 2021**

Councilmembers were not physically present at this Special June 30th meeting per the current version of Governor Proclamation 20-28 Amending Proclamation 20-05. Access to the Meeting was by Phone.

1. Call to Order

At 7:00 P.M. Mayor Verzal conducted a roll call to document telephone attendance.

Councilmember Cragun – Present
Councilmember Babb – Present
Councilmember Schut – Present
Councilmember Stapp – Present
Councilmember Scholz – Present
City Attorney Chuck Zimmerman – Present
Fire District 4 Fire Marshal Jared Harms – Present
Fire District 4 Fire Chief Bill Neckels – Present

Present with Mayor Verzal at City Hall and observing social distancing was City Clerk/Treasurer Deby Cragun.

Mayor Verzal stated tonight's Special City Council meeting is called for the purpose of considering a ban on the discharge and sale of consumer fireworks in the City on July 3rd and 4th, and to consider ratification of his cancellation of the public fireworks display that was scheduled for July 4th.

2. Resolution 2021-004 ~ Banning the Sale and Discharge of Common Fireworks and The Public Display of Fireworks in the City on July 3 and 4, 2021.

Mayor Verzal explained that he called this Special Meeting to consider passage of the Resolution due to the documentation provided to the Council from the Fire District Fire Marshal and the high fire danger conditions.

IT WAS MOVED BY CRAGUN, SECONDED BY BABB, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-004 BANNING THE SALE AND DISCHARGE OF COMMON FIREWORKS AND THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS IN THE CITY ON JULY 3 AND 4, 2021.

Present on the phone were Fire District 4 Chief Bill Neckels and Fire Marshal Jared Harms. Fire Chief Bill Neckles and Fire Marshal Jared Harms both spoke concerning the Spokane County Fire Weather and Fire Behavior Alert that was issued on Friday June 25, 2021 and the June 29, 2021 Inland Empire Joint Chiefs recommendation concerning fireworks this season.

Councilmembers Cragun and Babb stated they support the Resolution as presented based on the fire danger emergency.

Councilmember Schut stated cancellation of the professional display of fireworks show sponsored by the City is a reasonable decision. He stated consideration should be given to finding a new safer location for future professional fireworks displays. He feels Fireworks sales should not be banned as the residents would appreciate the ability to buy fireworks to be used when lawful on December 31, 2021. He agreed with the proposed restriction on discharge of consumer fireworks on July 4.

IT WAS MOVED BY SCHUT, SECONDED BY STAPP, TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2021-004 TO PERMIT THE SALE OF FIREWORKS ON JULY 3 and 4, 2021.

Mayor Verzal conducted a roll call vote on the motion to amend the Resolution:

Council Member Cragun - No
Council Member Babb - No
Council Member Schut - Yes
Council Member Stapp - Yes
Council Member Scholz – No

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2021-004 Failed 2-3 (Cragun, Babb, Scholz)

Councilmember Stapp stated he appreciated Mayor Verzal's efforts to make sure the Councilmembers received all information ahead of tonight's meeting. He also appreciated Councilmember Schut's resources that he felt outlined some of the issues well. He went on the say we are engaging in government overreach by banning businesses from selling fireworks. He stated we have been through this a year and half with government leaders not putting personal freedom first. This has had an impact on our economy and our people.

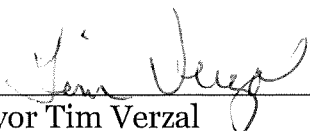
Councilmember Scholz stated we have a moral obligation to our community to seriously consider the warnings given to us by both the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal.

Following discussion, Mayor Verzal conducted a role call vote on the motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-004 as presented:

Council Member Cragun - Yes
Council Member Babb - Yes
Council Member Schut - No
Council Member Stapp - No
Council Member Scholz – Yes

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-004 passed 3-2 (Schut, Stapp).

3. There being no further business to come before the Council at that Special Meeting, Mayor Verzal declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.



Mayor Tim Verzal



Deby Cragun, City Clerk/Treasurer