

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1:
ROLL CALL**

Mayor Brian Blad called the Special City Council Town Hall meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Dakota Bates, Rick Cheatum, Linda Leeuwrik, Brent Nichols and Hayden Paulsen. Council member Corey Mangum was excused.

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 2:
FIREWORKS SAFETY/ENFORCEMENT:**

Ryan O'Hearn, Fire Chief, introduced Dean Bullock, Assistant Fire Chief, Kim Stouse, Community Risk Reduction Specialist, and Police Chief Roger Schei. Chief O'Hearn discussed the following fire related topics:

- Fire Risk – With continued development in the foothills and wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas, fireworks present an increasing danger. He recalled past incidents such as the Charlotte Fire and El Rancho Fire that spread rapidly and led to devastating losses.
- Burn Restrictions – A burn ban is in effect from July 1 through October 1, or until conditions improve. This burn ban is in coordination with Bannock County and prohibits open burning in designated bench areas and WUI areas.
- Illegal Fireworks – In 2024, approximately \$10,000 worth of illegal fireworks were confiscated. “Safe and Sane” fireworks – those that remain on the ground and meet legal requirements – are the only type of fireworks permitted in specified zones. Fireworks sales within City limits are only allowed June 28 through July 6.
- Inspection and Enforcement – Fireworks stands are inspected regularly to ensure compliance. Extra police and fire patrols, along with brush units, will be deployed during the holiday period. Citations and confiscation of illegal fireworks will continue.
- Public Safety Concerns – Officials emphasized risks to property, animals and individuals, as well as concerns for veterans and others who may be sensitive to loud explosions.
- Legal Penalties – Use of illegal fireworks in non-WUI areas could lead to an infraction and \$100 fine. Use of fireworks in WUI areas are considered a misdemeanor offense, with fine amounts set by the court.
- Public Reporting – Citizens were encouraged to report illegal firework use via the Police Department non-emergency line or 9-1-1 for active fires. Photos, videos or security system footage may be used in investigations.

Council discussion stressed the importance of community cooperation, responsible celebration and utilizing professional firework shows, such as the annual “Greatest Show in Idaho.”

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3:
COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Mayor Blad articulated that speakers are asked to be courteous while sharing their comments. Audience members were asked to show respect for those who are speaking.

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TOWN HALL MEETING
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Jeb Harrison, Pocatello resident, thanked the Council and staff members for providing valuable information regarding fireworks safety. He stated that he is the owner of a fireworks stand and is compliant with all City requirements for fireworks sales. Mr. Harrison expressed frustration that compliant businesses are required to close their fireworks sales businesses if there is an active fire situation in the area. He encouraged stronger enforcement and higher imposed fines for illegal fireworks.

Heather Disselkoen, Pocatello resident, expressed concern regarding allegedly unlawful street impact fees collected from utility users. She urged Council to act quickly to avoid costly litigation.

Stephen Adams, Pocatello resident, reminded the Council of the importance of adhering to financial management policies to protect the City's credit rating, borrowing ability and grant opportunities.

Kristy Lewis, Pocatello resident, shared concerns about neighborhood fireworks, including fire hazards, debris and distress to pets. She asked that increased enforcement be implemented.

Dean Bullock affirmed that the Monte Vista area is listed within the Wildland Urban Interface area and that all fireworks are prohibited in that area.

Chief Schei reiterated enforcement strategies, and noted the issuance of 52 citations last year. He affirmed the City's commitment to public safety.

Mayor Blad and Council members thanked responsible business owners and citizens and reiterated the need for responsible firework usage.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4:
ADJOURN

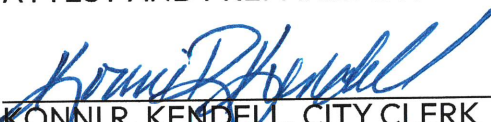
There being no further business, Mayor Blad adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED:



BRIAN C. BLAD, MAYOR

ATTEST AND PREPARED BY:



KONNI R. KENDELL, CITY CLERK

