

MINUTES
Warrenton City Commission
Work Session – August 27, 2019
5:30 p.m.
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers
225 S. Main
Warrenton, OR 97146

Mayor Balensifer called the work session to order at 5:3 p.m.

City Commissioners Present: Mayor Balensifer, Rick Newton, and Tom Dyer
Absent: Pam Ackley, Mark Baldwin

Staff Present: City Manager Linda Engbretson, Fire Chief Tim Demers, Finance Director April Clark, Public Works Director Collin Stelzig, Police Chief Mathew Workman, and City Recorder Dawne Shaw

Fire Chief, Tim Demers, discussed the burn regulation proposal as outlined in the agenda packet material. He noted the biggest change would be implementing two different permits; a Burn Barrel and Recreational Fire permit with a fee attached. The permit would be valid October to October. He continued to discuss the regulations surrounding each burn permit.

Mayor Balensifer briefly discussed his concern with commercial burns. Chief Demers clarified that some of the regulations are based off of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) guidelines. The discussion continued. Commissioner Dyer inquired about the on duty phone. Chief Demers explained; the duty phone would not change anything procedural wise that the Fire Department would do in response to a call. He continued to explain the response procedures of the Fire Department. Mayor Balensifer discussed recreational permits and stated he would like to keep both permits.

Chief Demers continued to explain his proposal of new allowances. He stated the secondary permit, the pile permit, would most likely be a duration of one week. Mayor Balensifer asked for clarification on what the pile permit would be for. Chief Demers explained the regulations surrounding the pile permit, noting DEQ interpretation of regulations. Conversation continued. Mayor Balensifer asked for clarification on the question before commission. “Is the question whether we should make DEQ code ours, to change our code to align with DEQ’s?” Chief Demers stated “yes, it does give us some latitude underneath it, but not a lot.” Conversation continued on that matter.

Mayor Balensifer asked commission how they want to see the rules and permits be reflected. Commissioner Dyer stated he thinks the biggest issue it’s the commercial aspect. Commissioner Newton stated that on the example permit Chief Demers provided he would like clarification on what fine mesh screen is. Chief clarified. Mayor Balensifer stated that the ordinances needed to be referenced on the permit and in addition he would like a recommended burn barrel design.

Chief Demers stated if the commission could find a suggested barrel design he would be happy to include it. Mayor Balensifer stated the real issue is that whatever ordinance we change this with should have a purpose statement included that defines what the intent of the law is. Conversation continued.

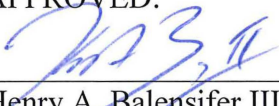
Mayor Balensifer asked Commission Newton what his thoughts were on burn policy. Commissioner Newton stated he does not have a problem with the current burn permit. "I would like the max size defined. As far as the commercial operations constitutes complain a lot about the smoke and I think that's the area we need to address in his opinion." Mayor Balensifer stated he thinks there is a clear call for regulation from the constituents for commercial burns. Ms. Engbretson asked for clarification. Conversation continued.

Consensus was there is no issue with burn barrels as long as they stay within the requirements. Off premise material moved to on premise for the purpose of clearing is not allowed. Mayor Balensifer would like policy clarification that if you have a tree that falls down because of a storm or there is a tree that is a hazard. You cut it up for fire wood and the limbs and such that are left over can be burned in a 10x10x4 pile. Chief Demers agreed. Discussion continued. Commission consensus was No commercial burns in the sense of no offsite materials being brought onsite, clarify acceptable dimensions and clarify that the burn is for a single pile, 2 different permits types based on Chief Demers recommendations for times and pre conference with the person. If commission can find an acceptable burn barrel style than to include that as well.

There being no further business, Mayor Balensifer adjourned the work session at 6:03 p.m.

ATTEST: 

Dawne Shaw, City Recorder

APPROVED:


Henry A. Balensifer III, Mayor