

Councilmembers

Position No.

1. Tod Gunther
2. John Kelly
3. Tony Belot
4. John Williams
5. Gregg Bradshaw
6. Greg Hogan
7. Scott Drennen



Mayor Joshua Penner, Chair

Orting City Council

Regular Business Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
Orting, WA
June 24th, 2020
7 p.m.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL.**

Mayor Penner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, and Councilmember Drennen led the pledge of allegiance. **Councilmembers Present:** Deputy Mayor Greg Hogan, Councilmembers Tod Gunther, John Kelly, Tony Belot, John Williams, Scott Drennen, and Gregg Bradshaw.

Staff Present: Mark Bethune, City Administrator, Jane Montgomery, City Clerk, Scott Larson, Treasurer/Assistant City Administrator, Charlotte Archer, City Attorney, JC Hungerford, Engineer.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA.

Councilmember Williams made a motion to add a discussion of banning fireworks to the Agenda. Second by Councilmember Drennen. Motion passed (4-3). The Nays were made by Councilmembers Kelly, Belot, and Bradshaw.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Breakfast Pack

An email was read in to the record which asked the City to get fireworks under control.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2020.
- B. Study Session Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2020.
- C. Claims and Warrants.

Councilmember Kelly made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as prepared. Second by Councilmember Bradshaw. Motion passed (7-0)

4. **COVID19- DISCUSSION**

Mayor Penner stated his only update is a potential new directive from the Governor requiring that facemasks be worn in public starting June 26th, 2020.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. AB20-54-Ordinance No. 2020-1061, An Ordinance Of The City Of Orting, Washington, Repealing In Its Entirety And Re-Enacting OMC Chapter 5-7, Relating To Fireworks; Providing For Severability; And Establishing An Effective Date.

Councilmember Williams stated that the fireworks debate has been ongoing for approximately 5 years. He was aware that the advisory vote placed on the ballot had indicated that the majority of residents in Orting do not want fireworks banned. Councilmember Williams stated that in spite of that vote, he still has concerns for public safety issues surrounding fireworks displays in Orting. He believes it is only a matter of time before someone experiences a catastrophic event. He would like this issue to be revisited. City Attorney Archer briefed on the proposed ordinance which was drafted in 2014. This ordinance would prohibit fireworks in entirety. Current code allows for fireworks during a small window of time on the 4th of July and on New Year's Eve. The Mayor asked each Councilmember to weigh in on the fireworks issue.

- 🗳️ **Councilmember Drennen** recalled a time when there was a structured community event. He has heard from many citizens regarding the negative impacts of fireworks in the City. He still believes that there should be a ban on fireworks in the City, unless it is a community event.
- 🗳️ **Councilmember Gunther** recalled incidents over the years that have caused harm to property and to people. He feels it can be dangerous. He would like increased enforcement of illegal fireworks.
- 🗳️ **Councilmember Kelly** stated that the advisory vote indicated that the majority of Orting residents wanted to keep the fireworks. He felt that last year the Police did a great job of enforcing laws related to illegal fireworks. He wants to take a closer look at this and step up enforcement of the current code. He cited the stress to pets. He would rather not change the current law.
- 🗳️ **Councilmember Belot** wanted Council to keep in mind that people have been locked down for 5 months. He felt it would be a bad idea to put more restrictions on citizens by not allowing them to set off legal fireworks. He is against a total ban.
- 🗳️ **Councilmember Bradshaw** stated that there was an overwhelming consensus from a vocal minority to keep fireworks. He hesitates to not listen to that voice. He understands the dangers and concerns. He agrees that illegal fireworks are a problem, but recognizes the difficulty of policing that issue. He does not want to further impose government rules on the citizens.
- 🗳️ **Deputy Mayor Hogan** stated that he was the one who requested the advisory vote. He respects the opinion of the voters. He did take issue with the effects on pets and safety to property. He also expressed disapproval of the practice of citizens using public streets to shoot off fireworks. He stated that if Council wants to re visit the issue that it should do so at the Committee level. He would like to go back to a Community 4th of July Event like Orting had in the past.

The Mayor suggested this go back to the Public Safety Committee or to the Community and Government Affairs Committee.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Clerk Montgomery announced that there would be an executive session per RCW 42.30.110(1) (i)-To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters, relating to agency enforcement actions, for 15 minutes, and no action is anticipated after return to open session.

Mayor Penner recessed the meeting at 7:38pm to go in to executive session.

7:38pm-recessed to executive session for 15 minutes.

7:53pm- Executive session over.

Staff moved Councilmembers from the breakout session back to the open virtual meeting.

Mayor Penner called the meeting back to order at 7:55pm.

7. ADJOURNMENT

***Councilmember Kelly made a motion to adjourn. Second by Councilmember Bradshaw.
Motion passed (7-0)***

Mayor Penner recessed the meeting at 7:56pm.

ATTEST:



Jane Montgomery, City Clerk, CMC



Joshua Penner, Mayor