

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
WHITEFISH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JULY 1, 2015 AT 9:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Muhlfeld called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Councilors present were Barbaris, Fitzgerald, Frandsen, Hildner, Feury and Sweeney. Staff present were Assistant City Clerk Woodbeck, City Manager Stearns, City Attorney Van Buskirk, Interim Fire Chief Page, Police Chief Dial, Fire Marshal Kennelly. There were 10 people in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Muhlfeld asked Casey Malmquist to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC-(This time is set aside for the public to comment on items that are either on the agenda, but not a public hearing or on items not on the agenda. City officials do not respond during these comments, but may respond or follow-up later on the agenda or at another time. The Mayor has the option of limiting such communications to three minutes depending on the number of citizens who want to comment and the length of the meeting agenda): **None.**

PUBLIC HEARINGS-(Items will considered for action after public hearings)(Resolution No. 07-33 establishes a 30 minute time limit for applicant's land use presentations. Ordinances require 4 votes for passage-Section 1-6-2(E)(3)WCC

- a. **Ordinance No. 15-11; An Emergency Ordinance enacting a ban on the discharge and use of fireworks inside Whitefish City limits for up to 90 days**

Interim Fire Chief Page said the reason for this emergency ordinance is because of the current weather we are having which is dry, hot and low humidity. Let's be preventive not reactive. We are also at a Stage 1 fire restriction.

Councilor Fitzgerald asked if this ordinance passes does it mean that Iron Horse will not be allowed to do their fireworks. Chief Page said it would and also he or the City Manager can decide if the Chamber will still be able to do their display on the lake.

Police Chief Dial said if we allow the Chambers fireworks display to go forward and the County Commissioners decide not to allow any then there will be more people coming into town and they are very short staffed to handle the extra crowd of people. He said they will have 10 officers on duty plus 7 Sheriff Posse which is not enough for the crowds and feels it is too dangerous to allow any fireworks at all.

Mayor Muhlfeld opened the public meeting.

Ed Leiser, 1355 Lion Mountain Drive, said he is a board member of the Fire Service Area and a longtime firefighter. Ed asked that they approve Ordinance 15-11 and also do not let Iron Horse do their fireworks display as they are in the trees and it is very dry in the area. Ed said the winds are supposed to be 10-20 miles per hour on Saturday which will make this a very critical fire condition. On behalf of citizen we need the fire department available.

Bob Schmidt, Manager of Iron Horse, said he is available for any questions and will support anything the council decides.

Casey Malmquest, 160 Walker Creek Lane, said if they allow fireworks it will be very irresponsible of the council and fireworks are a privilege not a right so please pass this ordinance.

Fire Marshal Kennelley- 177 Arielle Way, said he is also here as a concerned citizen. He asked that they please pass this ordinance as the fire danger is very high and they have had in the past buildings catch on fire from fireworks.

Melissa Picoli, 1001 Mountain Park Drive, said to think about public health with the fireworks because if there is a fire started it can be very stressful on everyone with the fire and smoke.

Bridge Kelch, 235 W 10th Street and Whitefish Police Officer, said he would also like to ask that they pass this ordinance and do not allow fireworks at City Beach as they are short of officers.

Mayor Muhlfeld closed the public hearing and turned it over to the councilors.

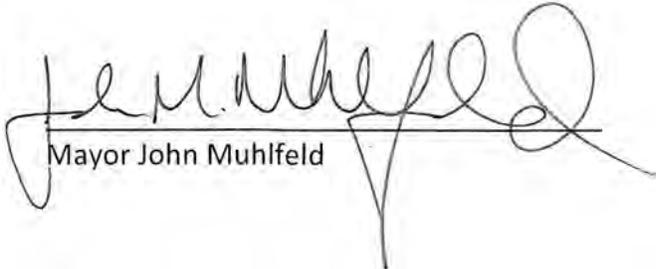
Councilor Hildner made a motion, seconded by Councilor Frandsen, to approve Ordinance No. 15-11; An Emergency Ordinance enacting a ban on the discharge and use of fireworks inside Whitefish City limits for up to 90 days. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILORS

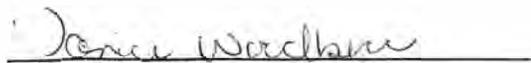
Councilor Sweeney urged the Interim Fire Chief Page and City Manager Stearns to make the decision not to allow the fireworks display at City Beach to happen this year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.



Mayor John Muhlfeld



Vanice Woodbeck, Assistant City Clerk