

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the City Council of the City of Highland was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Lilburn at the Donahue Council Chambers, 27215 Base Line, Highland, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Hogan, Lilburn, McCallon, Saldana, Timmer
Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ONLY)

None

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

1. Ordinance Amending the City's Fireworks Regulations to Increase the Fines and Authorize the Enhancement of Enforcement Efforts (HMC Chapter 1.20, Arrest and Citation Procedures, Chapter 2.56, Administrative Citation Process, and Chapter 8.58, Fireworks)

Mayor Lilburn opened the public hearing for the ordinance amending the City's fireworks regulations to increase the fines and authorize the enhancement of enforcement efforts.

City Manager Zamano stated staff proposes increasing the ordinance fireworks fine for violations within the City of Highland. Currently, the fine is set at \$1,000, and the recommendation is to raise the maximum allowable amount of \$2,000. The goal is to deter individuals from engaging in fireworks activities by emphasizing the severity of consequences, thereby encouraging compliance with municipal codes. These proposed changes are based on insights gained from a conference attended last year, with the City of Bellflower. Their approach has yielded promising results. As a pilot program for this initiative, staff plans to conduct a targeted enforcement effort during the 4th of July holiday. A team consisting of management, code enforcement officers, and vehicles equipped with dash cams will patrol the city during the evening. To maintain discretion, rental vehicles will be used to avoid drawing unnecessary attention. The objective is to observe fireworks activity and identify information to establish clear evidence that violations are occurring at properties. This data collection will allow us to verify incidents and prepare citations for them and mail to property owners within one to two weeks. This enforcement strategy will be an effective tool in reducing fireworks violations. The city is eager to present this proposal to City Council for consideration to ensure timely implementation for the upcoming 4th of July. Staff is requesting the first ordinance reading at this special meeting with plans for the ordinance to take effect June 12, 2025 following a second reading scheduled at the City Council Regular Meeting on May 13, 2025.

Mayor Lilburn asked if there were any questions from the public, seeing none, she closed the public hearing and brought it back to City Council for deliberation.

Councilmember Saldana asked if citations include pictures of the violation taking place?

City Manager Zamano stated citations will not include pictures of individuals. Evidence will be retained city records.

Mayor Pro Tem McCallon stated some of these fireworks are being set off on the streets. How will staff identify the individuals responsible for igniting them?

City Manager Zamano stated staff will proceed at a careful and deliberate pace to ensure accurate identification of areas and neighborhoods stopping as needed rather than driving through. If any relevant information or observation arises, staff will document the corresponding addresses accordingly. Prior to this event taking place, staff will conduct outreach efforts to inform residents that fireworks are prohibited within the City of Highland. This will include the utilization of digital message signs throughout the area, announcements in the City of Highland newsletter, and postings on our official website. Additionally, we will collaborate with East Valley Water District (EVWD) to include a notice in their monthly billing statements and East Highland Homeowners Association (HOA) is willing to assist with sending out notices.

Mayor Lilburn asked if staff will be responsible for mailing out the notices?

City Manager Zamano confirmed yes.

Councilmember Hogan asked whether this would be limited to a single day.

City Manager Zamano stated this will only take place on the 4th of July.

Councilmember Timmer asked if the citations will be mailed to the physical address?

City Manager Zamano stated the citations will be mailed to the property owners.

City Attorney Marroquin mentioned it should be sent to the property owner, as that's the information the City of Highland has as opposed to the tenant.

Mayor Lilburn asked if the Sheriff's Department would be available to assist or if they have the capacity to issue a citation if they observe illegal fireworks?

Captain Dean from the Sheriff's Department stated fireworks, without concrete evidence such as video footage, can be challenging to trace back to the responsible individuals. With some experience across multiple jurisdictions, fireworks whether legally permitted or entirely banned are an ongoing issue everywhere, including the City of Highland. The Sheriff's Departments current staffing levels are full to commit assisting with fireworks enforcement at this time. Our resources are fully allocated to other events, including the 4th of July Parade, Immanuel Baptist activities, and the evening of July 4. As a result, our staffing on the streets prior to July 4, on a daily basis, is limited. However, if we can obtain verifiable evidence of fireworks being ignited, we will certainly take appropriate enforcement action.

A MOTION was made by Mayor Pro Tem McCallon, seconded by Councilmember Saldana to:

- 1) Introduce and conduct first reading of City Council Ordinance No. 468, amending Chapter 1.20, Arrest and Citation, Chapter 2.56, Administrative Citation Process, and Chapter 8.58 of the Highland Municipal Code to increase the administrative fine as allowable under the State Fireworks Law for use of illegal fireworks, and other amendments to authorize enhanced code enforcement efforts; and
- 2) Direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Motion carried, 5-0.

City Clerk Muñoz introduced Ordinance No. 468

ORDINANCE NO. 468

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND,
CALIFORNIA, DELETING CHAPTER 1.20 (ARREST AND CITATION PROCEDURES)
OF TITLE 1 (GENERAL PROVISIONS); AND AMENDING CHAPTER 2.56
(ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION PROCESS) OF TITLE 2 (ADMINISTRATION AND
PERSONNEL) AND CHAPTER 8.58 (FIREWORKS) OF TITLE 8 (HEALTH AND
SAFETY) OF THE HIGHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO THE
ENFORCEMENT OF FIREWORKS VIOLATIONS

Which title was read.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Marroquin read the City Council into closed session at 6:23 p.m. regarding the following:

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 regarding the following:

Agency Negotiator: Carlos Zamano, City Manager

Employee Organization: Unrepresented employees

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Pursuant to government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2) regarding the following:

Significant exposure to litigation: One case.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Lilburn adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Submitted By:

Approved By:



Alondra Muñoz
City Clerk



Larry McCallon
Mayor Pro Tem