



CITY of THE DALLES

313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON 97058

(541) 296-5481

AGENDA

OPEN BURN POLICY COMMITTEE

June 7, 2011

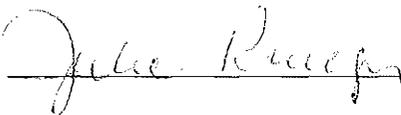
4:00 p.m.

FIRE BAY CONFERENCE ROOM
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 31, 2011
3. DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING OPEN BURNING
4. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting conducted in a handicap accessible room.

Prepared by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk



MINUTES

OPEN BURN POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
OF
MAY 31, 2011
4:00 P.M.
SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON

PRESIDING: Chair Chris Zukin

MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Brown, Bruce Lumper, Teresa Myers, Kathy Heitkemper, Barbara Pashek, Pierce Louis, Doug Tumilson, Dan Hammel, Karen Murray

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Clerk Julie Krueger

GUESTS PRESENT: Tom Conklin

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Zukin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Brown and seconded by Heitkemper to approve the meeting minutes of May 24, 2011. The motion carried unanimously, Louis and Hammel absent.

REVIEW DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING BURN BARRELS

Chair Zukin distributed proposed new language for subsections A and E.

Hammel in attendance at 4:08 p.m.

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Burn Policy Committee Meeting
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Pashek questioned if the Committee should include language regarding enforcement of a burn barrel ban. She noted enforcement issues had been included in the direction from the City Council, to the Committee. There was general consensus to direct staff to include language regarding enforcement into the staff report, but not include as a formal recommendation.

Louis in attendance at 4:28 p.m.

Pashek asked the Committee to research the Four "B" program: Buy Back Burn Barrels. She said there was information available on the internet and that it had been a successful program for many cities.

It was the consensus of the Committee to accept the proposed language changes for subsections A and E.

DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING OPEN BURNING

Chair Zukin referred to an email he sent to the Committee, stating the two positions regarding open burning: 1) ban all open burning of yard debris in The Dalles; and 2) restrict burning of yard debris to two specific seasonal time periods (April 1 to June 30 and September 1 to November 30 as an example) and during those two periods allow open burning only when air quality conditions permit.

Pierce Louis suggest an additional alternative would be to allow the restricted burning, but add a phase out over a period of time to a complete ban.

Barbara Pashek asked if the Fire District allowed for hardship permits. Fire Marshal Hammel said very rarely a hardship permit might be considered for a commercial operation, but not residential.

An informal poll was taken regarding the open burning options. Heitkemper and Myers favored a ban; Tumilson, Brown, Pashek and Zukin favored the restricted burning option.

Kathy Heitkemper said citizens needed to be educated regarding the community health issues associated with burning and options to burning needed to be identified. There was discussion regarding how to convince people to stop burning yard debris. It was noted that it was cost prohibitive for many people to haul the debris as opposed to burning it.

Zukin suggested scientific data be used to establish the burn seasons, checking historical data on air quality conditions. Bruce Lumper said he would provide information regarding air quality history.

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There was discussion regarding the concept of Fire District personnel checking burn piles before they were ignited. Hammel said it was a good idea but the District would not have adequate man power to check all burn piles.

It was moved by Brown and seconded by Zukin to recommend to City Council to restrict open burning to two seasons, October 15 through November 30 and April 1 through May 30, allowed only when air quality conditions permit.

Following discussion, Pashek questioned the language of the motion, saying she believed the motion included the words "for a period of time". Brown said his motion was as stated by staff. The motion was voted on and carried; Pashek opposed.

The Committee members were asked to draft proposals to be discussed at the next meeting, regarding implementation of the restricted open burn recommendation. There was agreement to share the suggestions via email. City Clerk Krueger reminded the Committee members that the emails were subject to open records law and if all members were communicating via email, it could constitute a public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk

SIGNED:

Chris Zukin, Chair



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AGENDA STAFF REPORT CITY OF THE DALLES

MEETING DATE	AGENDA LOCATION	AGENDA REPORT #
July 11, 2011	Presentations	

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk

THROUGH: Nolan K. Young, City Manager

DATE: June.....

ISSUE: Recommendations from the Burn Policy Committee.

BACKGROUND: The Committee was established by Mayor Wilcox, through Resolution No. 11-009, on March 28, 2011. The members of the Committee are, citizen members: Chair Chris Zukin, Doug Tumilson, Teresa Myers, Kathy Heitkemper, Russ Brown, Barbara Pashek; Resource members: Bruce Lumper, DEQ, Dan Hammel, Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue District, Karen Murray, Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program, and Pierce Louis, Dirt Huggers.

The Committee was charged with identifying proposals and recommendations regarding outdoor burning, including educational programs, mulching, methods to enforce the ban of burning garbage in barrels, seasonal burning programs, weather related burning programs, and promoting alternatives to burning.

In 2010, a request was brought to the City Council by Kathy Heitkemper, to ban outdoor burning in the City of The Dalles. The primary reason for the request was to eliminate serious health

conditions caused by the pollution from outdoor burning. **[expand]**

The Committee has had the support and cooperation of many agencies in developing their recommendations. Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue District, Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program, and DEQ have all offered their support and assistance in implementation of the recommendations. While it is believed there are many other agencies who would be partners, the Committee did not have direct contact with representatives of other agencies while forming the recommendations.

An example of the support is through Committee discussion, it was noted there was not a way for citizens to dispose of their confidential papers if they didn't have a shredder or could not burn them. As a result of that discussion, Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling has added a residential shredding program to their monthly collection events. It is a pilot program which will be evaluated at the end of the calendar year. This is just one example of the partnerships that can be formed to assist citizen's transition from using burn barrels.

The Committee acknowledges that if their recommendations are accepted, enforcement of a new ordinance will be required at some level, to be determined by the City. The Committee believes DEQ and Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue District would assist by providing education and if a burn ban is implemented, the District would discontinue issuing permits within the city limits.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: None at this time. Many recommendations can be accomplished through partnerships. Some recommendations may need a funding source and it is hoped grant funding can be secured for some programs.

COUNCIL ALTERNATIVES:

1. **Staff Recommendation:** Move to accept the recommendations of the Burn Policy Committee [add language if the Committee decides it wants to continue working on issues....]
2. Move to accept selected recommendations of the Committee
3. Decline to accept the recommendations of the Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OPEN BURN POLICY COMMITTEE

- I. Ban burn barrels.
 - A. Education. Develop educational *material* tools, pieces and messages including an informational document and methods for broad distribution that will inform citizens about *the negative health conditions created by burning trash in burn barrels and about the alternatives to burn barrels including existing recycling, composting and hazardous waste disposal programs.* ***Distribute this information as broadly as possible to include messages on City water bills, Tri-County Hazardous Waste Program literature and direct mail pieces, radio and***

~~newspaper PSA's, etc. regarding reduced garbage fees for senior/low income residents; and Consider expanding the Community Clean Up Day event to include education elements and provide information regarding alternatives to burning, and to involve service organizations to help residents who are unable to bring yard debris to a drop off site.~~

- B. Alternatives to Burn Barrels. Develop a phase out period of up to one year for burn barrels and develop a program to allow residents to trade their burn barrel for a compost device and/or shredder (for those who normally burn confidential papers) or a certificate for a month of garbage service in trade for the barrel. The Committee recommends seeking **partnerships** ~~a grant~~ to fund this program. Provide drop off sites for shredding in public locations such as City Hall, Senior Center, and Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling. Do not institute burn barrel ban until alternatives have been identified and supplied/funded.
 - C. Upgrades to Garbage Service. Direct The Dalles Disposal to prepare information regarding alternative programs including, but not limited to, universal (mandatory) garbage service; service that would include garbage, recycle and yard debris pick up for one set fee; options for various can sizes; options for bi-weekly pick up; offer a free yard debris drop off day once per week; provide paper shredder at the transfer station for free use by public.
 - D. Burn Ban Boundary. Dialogue with Wasco County regarding extending the City burn ban to the Urban Growth Boundary.
 - E. Removal of Burn Barrels. Solve issue of **disposing of/** collecting old burn barrels. **Inform citizens that there is no charge for dropping off old burn barrels at The Dalles Disposal for recycling. Involve service organizations to help residents dispose of old burn barrels.**
 - F. Partnerships. Work with Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue District to implement any changes in burn barrel policy. Work and partner with other agencies and entities to help provide education, implement alternatives to burning, and possibly fund programs.
2. Restrict Open Burning.