

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: November 8, 2021

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Patrice Toney, Assistant City Manager
William L. Mayo, Fire Chief

Council Action Requested:
Ordinance Amending Chapter 22 of the Code of the City of Winston-Salem Entitled “Fire Prevention and Protection” to revise and clarify policies for outdoor open burning, Section 22-69(F) *Bonfires and Rubbish Fires*

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community
Strategic Objective: No
Strategic Plan Action Item: No
Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:
The attached ordinance amends Chapter 22 to revise and clarify the policies for outdoor open burning Section 22-6(f) Bonfires and Rubbish Fires.

The purpose is to limit the occurrence of unwanted fires and nuisances caused by outdoor open burning within the City Limits of Winston-Salem. The existing ordinance needs clarification. There have been changes in devices, equipment, and construction of fire pits/fireplaces (i.e. commercially obtained fire pits, fire bowls, chimineas as well as permanently constructed fire pits and fireplaces). There is currently no guidance as to what may be used to contain the fire and what may or may not be burned. The proposed ordinance is also based upon and does not exceed North Carolina General Statutes (15A NCAC 02D.1900 Open Burning) This ordinance also does not conflict with or supersede Forsyth County air quality regulations (Chapter Three of the Forsyth County Code of Ordinances).

This ordinance in no way affects outdoor cooking fires in grills, smokers, etc. Citizens must still obtain approval and a permit for bonfires.
 A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) will be posted on the Winston-Salem Fire Department webpage to assist the public.

Many other municipalities and counties in North Carolina have enacted similar outdoor burning ordinances.

Committee Action:

Committee	Public Safety 11/8/2021	Action	Approval
For	Unanimous	Against	

Remarks:

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) will be posted on the Winston-Salem Fire Department webpage to assist the public.

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