

From: Glory Mahan <gloryb@vcn.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2018 11:30 AM
To: michaelszcz@bresnan.net
Cc: 'Loni'
Subject: RE: Proposed Ordinance 936 (fireworks)

Your letter will be included, Michael.

Glory

From: michaelszcz@bresnan.net [mailto:michaelszcz@bresnan.net]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 4:25 PM
To: 'Anna Drew'; andrew.dimich@gmail.com; 'Dave Westwood'; 'Diane Dimich'; 'Glory Mahan'; 'Corey Thompson'
Subject: RE: Proposed Ordinance 936 (fireworks)

Hello all,

I noticed the March 13, 2018 council meeting minutes included comments (letters, debate page, etc.) concerning the proposed Ordinance 936 (fireworks) that even included comments about the proposed ordinance that had nothing to do with fireworks. That said, I noticed my comments/concerns/questions/suggestions, etc. was not included in the minutes (I sent an e-mail to the full council approximately 1 week before the council meeting. See below). I hope it was an oversight by the council and/or clerk. No matter the reason, I would really appreciate my March 7, 2018 e-mail comments be considered by the city just like the comments by various members of the community.

Thank you,

Michael Szczutkowski
Red Lodge

From: michaelszcz@bresnan.net <michaelszcz@bresnan.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 8:51 PM
To: 'Anna Drew' <anna.drew.2989@gmail.com>; 'andrew.dimich@gmail.com' <andrew.dimich@gmail.com>; 'Dave Westwood' <dwestwood.ward1@gmail.com>; 'Diane Dimich' <dianedimich.ward2@gmail.com>; 'Glory Mahan' <gloryb@vcn.com>; 'Corey Thompson' <coreycoqthompson@gmail.com>
Subject: Proposed Ordinance 936 (fireworks)

Hello all,

I saw today that Anna posted in Red Lodge debate page the proposed Ordinance 936 (fireworks) draft and was she soliciting input from the public. Thank you Anna!

I decided to comment to the full council in a formal manner, but before doing so I want to make clear that I am patriotic and love to view formal firework shows. I have viewed many big formal shows at stadiums, Stone Mountain, Washington, DC, etc.

These are the comments and questions I would like the council to consider:

1. Even with the current ordinance banning fireworks in the city limits, there were many violations that appeared to not been enforced by law enforcement. That said, how does the city plan on enforcing any part of the proposed ordinance? License, days, hours, locations, etc.? Has the police department been asked?

2. Section 1B talks about wholesale sales, but what guidelines does the city have for possible retail sales, individual sales, etc.? That information needs to be clearly stated in the ordinance.
3. The location situation needs to be clearly stated in the ordinance. I live in an area with many vacant dry lots, especially in the summer. Being the high grass/weed ordinance does not officially kick in until July 15, the potential of a spreading fire for July 2-5 fireworks is probably very high. In conjunction with possible passage of the fireworks ordinance, I still believe that particular high grass/weed ordinance date should be June 15 or at least June 30 as the latest date (not July 15), so this would be a good time to revisit that ordinance in conjunction with the proposed fireworks ordinance. **NOTE 1:** The grass/weeds height in the vacant lot directly behind me was > 12 inches before July 1 the last 2 years. Think how fast a fire will spread if that area ignited from a lit firework. **NOTE 2:** Related to the location issue, I have had fireworks land in my yard and on my roof. That is not good at all!
4. Based on Number 3, there needs to be a liability clause in the fireworks ordinance for anyone that causes bodily injury, property damage, starting a fire (vacant lots is an example) that needs city/county resources at the tax-payers expense, etc.
5. If the fireworks ordinance does pass, I think the timeframe should be 6:00 PM-10:00 PM. That is to be fair to people that have to work the next day, animals, etc. Also, my suspicion is that people would be more responsible during the 6-10 PM time. Not much good would occur if after midnight, especially if alcohol is involved in the situation.
6. In past years with fireworks in the city limits, many users have left their mess in the street. I know because of my cleanup in my neighborhood. That litter issue needs to be addressed in the ordinance.

These are the comments and questions I have for now. I would prefer the city have multiple formal firework displays during the July 4th holiday and encourage people to contribute instead of having private fireworks. The formal fireworks are regulated and there probably is less chance of injury, less chance of damage to other residents property, less chance pets and PTSD people being traumatized, etc.

Thank you for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want to talk more about this situation.

Michael Szczutkowski
Red Lodge