

**Redmond City Council
Special Meeting Minutes**

July 1, 2025

Council Chambers & Remote Video Conferencing

<https://www.redmondoregon.gov/city-council>

Present: Clifford Evelyn, Ed Fitch, John Nielsen, Kathryn Osborne, Jay Patrick, Shannon Wedding, Cat Zwicker (arrived at 4:02 pm)

Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Keith Witcosky, City Attorney Keith Leitz, Deputy City Manager Steve Ashworth, Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff, Public Works Director/City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan, City Recorder Kelly Morse, Airport Director Zachary Bass, Communications Director Heather Cassaro, Finance Director James Wood, Planning Director Kyle Roberts, Economic Development/Urban Renewal Program Manager Chuck Arnold, Network Administrator Christian Armatas, Police Captain Stephen Lopez, Human Resources Director Jason Bavuso

Media Present: KTVZ, COTV

CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS

A. Discussion Regarding Fireworks

Mayor Fitch noted the City received significant public input and, after review with executive leadership, Police, and Fire, announced that legal fireworks will be banned starting at 12:01 am on July 5, 2025. They will be permitted until then; illegal fireworks and all fireworks in the Dry Canyon remain prohibited. He acknowledged the tradition and community investment, including fundraising sales.

Councilor Patrick expressed support for the midnight ban and opposed interfering with how the community celebrates the Fourth of July.

Mayor Fitch called for public comment.

- TNT Fireworks Regional Manager Britton Cottrell offered to partner with the City to promote safety education around legal fireworks, including providing materials for social media and customer distribution.

Mayor Fitch emphasized illegal fireworks remain a serious issue, with a \$1,500 fine imposed on property owners where they are used. After July 4, 2025, the use of legal fireworks could also result in a \$500 fine.

- Redmond resident John Lickley shared that two homes on NW Redwood Avenue were severely burned last year after fireworks were disposed of in a garbage can beside a house.
- Redmond resident Shane Ford noted Redmond is already unusually loud for its size due to modified exhausts and low-flying planes. Fireworks are a part of American culture. He urged the Council to consider data on fires caused by responsible fireworks use, adding the majority were being punished for the actions of a few.
- Redmond resident Carol Carlson supported banning fireworks immediately, not waiting until after July 4, 2025.

- Redmond resident Marti Hicks thanked the Fire Department and any community members for their response to the two Canyon fires.

Mayor Fitch confirmed the ban starting July 5, 2025, applies to this year only and that discussion of July 4, 2026, will occur later this month or in August. He also explained how to report fireworks violations to Code Enforcement.

- Redmond resident Martin Martinez opposed banning fireworks, suggesting increased fines for parents of irresponsible minors and more community education from Fire and Police as a better approach.
- Redmond resident Gloria Olson spoke about the trauma of losing a home to fire and the negative impacts of fireworks, including noise and street damage. She noted four recent fires near homes and said fireworks are unnecessary for a safe holiday during fire season.
- Discount Fireworks Manager Travis Leeman highlighted the business' community involvement and said it would be heartbreaking to take the joy of fireworks away from children.
- New Season Ministries President Ed Forsythe described how fireworks fundraising supports local and international charitable programs. He thanked the City for allowing fireworks sales, acknowledged fire concerns, and cited that fireworks cause only 1.7 percent of Oregon fires, mostly from illegal use. He outlined their safety efforts, including disposal instructions and radio ads.
- Redmond resident David Olewiler supported celebrating the 4th of July and urged stricter enforcement against illegal fireworks.

Mayor Fitch confirmed Police will enforce laws against illegal fireworks if witnessed but will prioritize higher-risk issues like DUIs and accidents. The Code was amended this year to allow Code Enforcement to receive fireworks complaints. He explained how Code Enforcement responds to complaints.

- Star King School for the Ministry's Stef Jenkinson emphasized the importance of community safety and putting the community's needs above individual interests amid fire danger.
- Redmond resident Scott Stuart supported keeping fireworks for the 4th of July and suggested managing safety through Police teams or community watches during the three nights before and after the holiday.
- Redmond resident and PatRick Environmental wildland firefighting contractor Keith Rockow stated a ban is unnecessary and fines should encourage greater responsibility.

Mayor Fitch commended the Fire District and others for quickly extinguishing two Canyon fires, one caused by fireworks. After July 4, 2025, there is no reason to have fireworks of any kind.

Councilor Patrick noted the 4th of July in Redmond is usually hot and dry, opposed illegal fireworks, supported involving the community to manage safety, and noted options like a limited time window on the 4th of July or designated sites instead of a ban.

Councilor Osborne noted the City is trying to implement as many fire protections as possible, not just for fireworks, because 1.7 percent of fires can be catastrophic, such as the 2017 Eagle Creek fire.

Captain Lopez confirmed Bend believes its fireworks ban reduced law enforcement calls, though he noted other factors are involved that he could not speak to.

Councilor Nielsen noted Police and Fire are always available for firewise education and emphasized that climate change is intensifying and lengthening fire season.

Councilor Zwicker noted while Redmond has had fires and smoke in the past, current conditions are dryer with more tinder. She stressed community responsibility to report bad actors, while also voicing concern about jeopardizing youth baseball fundraising.

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance #2025-13 - An ordinance declaring a state of emergency due to extreme weather conditions.

City Attorney Keith Leitz noted updates since the proposed ordinance was distributed, adding that two additional fires occurred since its drafting. He reviewed the details of the ordinance which would apply during any Fire District burn ban from July 1, 2025, through calendar year-end. He confirmed the fireworks ban begins at 12:01 am on July 5, 2025, and can be enforced by either Police or Code Enforcement.

Councilor Nielsen moved to have a first and second reading of Ordinance #2025-13 by title only. Councilor Osborne seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0. (Ayes: Evelyn, Fitch, Nielsen, Osborne, Patrick, Wedding, Zwicker. Nays: None.)

Mr. Leitz provided the first and second reading of Ordinance #2025-13 by title only.

Councilor Wedding moved to adopt Ordinance #2025-13. Councilor Nielsen seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Evelyn, Fitch, Nielsen, Osborne, Patrick, Wedding, and Zwicker.

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 7 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Prepared by ABC Transcription Services
Reviewed by Kelly Morse, City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and **SIGNED** by the Mayor this 12th day of August 2025.

/s/ Ed Fitch
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kayla Duddy
Kayla Duddy, Deputy City Recorder