

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Thursday, October 31, 2024
Special Meeting

In-Person and Via Zoom Teleconference

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Scott Storms and James Cannon

ALSO PRESENT: Fire Chief Gary Ruggiero and Emergency Management Director Vic Puia

ATTENDING REMOTELY: Selectman Jon Savino

CALL TO ORDER:

Selectman Storms called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed

PUBLIC INPUT:

In Person:

None

Via Zoom:

None

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY AND ORDINANCE BANNING OPEN FIRES ON MUNICIPAL AND PRIVATE PROPERTY:

Selectman Storms stated that this meeting was called in response to a Declaration of Civil Preparedness Emergency that was issued by Governor Lamont on October 25th, at the suggestion of DEHMS, and at the request of Director Puia.

He explained that he would sign the Declaration of Public Emergency* and the proposed Ordinance Banning Open Fires on Municipal and Private Property* would be signed by the Board. He noted that the ordinance was drafted by the Town Attorney and had been reviewed by the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Cannon read the Ordinance into the record and stated that was his motion. Selectman Savino seconded the motion. Discussion followed. All in favor. Motion carried.

*The Declaration of Public Emergency and Ordinance Banning Open Fires on Municipal and Private Property are attached as Schedule A.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:11 p.m. was made by Selectman Storms and seconded by Selectman Savino. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Cathy Ziemian

Recording Secretary

Schedule A

Declaration of Public Emergency

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has experienced a prolonged period of extremely dry weather and,

WHEREAS, the dry weather has created conditions where the threat of outdoor fires has been exacerbated, and

WHEREAS, the number of fire calls has increased substantially in all areas of the State, including the Town of Windsor Locks, and

WHEREAS, the threat and potential for these fires has created a public safety hazard.

NOW THEREFORE, Scott Storms, as First Selectman of the Town of Windsor Locks, pursuant to C.G.S. § 28-8a(a) and Section 171-2 of the Town Code hereby declares the threat of outdoor fires to be a public emergency and authorizes the Board of Selectmen to take necessary action to abate the public threat of these fires.

Signed at Windsor Locks this _____ day of October 2024.

Honorable Scott Storms
Windsor Locks First Selectman

Ordinance Banning Open Fires on Municipal and Private Property

WHEREAS, the First Selectman, pursuant to his powers under C.G.S. 28-8a(a) and Section 171-2 of the Town Code has declared a public emergency arising from the threat of outdoor fires due to unusually dry conditions in the State of Connecticut and Town of Windsor Locks, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen has the obligation to abate all public health and safety conditions occurring during a state of public emergency, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen has, pursuant to Section 406 of the Town Charter, the authority to adopt emergency ordinances to abate such conditions.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 406 of the Town Charter the Board of Selectmen adopts the following:

1. Notwithstanding any ordinance, rule or regulation to the contrary, no person shall have an open fire or conduct open burning on any private property nor shall any person have an open fire or conduct open burning on any municipal property.
2. No person shall be issued a permit by the Fire Department or other local authority to have an open fire or conduct open burning on any property in town.
3. Prohibited open fires and open burning shall include, but are not limited to:
 - Burning of leaves and brush
 - Use of firepits, campfires, bonfires, chimineas or other similar devices
 - Charcoal/open flame grilling (propane and natural gas grills are exempt)
 - Fireworks
 - Fireplace ashes

1. These prohibitions shall continue until the First Selectman has declared the public emergency to be over or as otherwise provided by the Charter.
2. Any person violating this ordinance may be subject to fines or penalties up to \$100.00 and as provided by local law, ordinance, rule, or regulation or as may be provided under the Connecticut General Statutes.

Adopted this _____ day of October, 2024.

Scott Storms

Jonathan Savino

James Cannon