

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF RUIDOSO DOWNS
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 15, 2012
10:00 A.M.

The Council of the City of Ruidoso Downs met in special session on June 15, 2012. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Williams asked Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer to take roll call. The following were present:

Councilor Holman
Councilor Miller

Councilor Hood
Councilor Perry

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer informed Mayor Williams there was a quorum.

Also present:

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer

CONSIDER APPROVING RESOLUTION NO. 2012-09 CITY OF RUIDOSO DOWNS FIRE RESTRICTIONS LEVEL II

Mayor Williams asked Kenny Ellard with the Ruidoso Downs Fire Department to speak on this subject.

Kenny Ellard said we are presently at an ERC of 77%. The ERC is the Energy Release Component and that is the moisture and fuels. On the graph that I am looking at is the fuels of mixed conifer, short needle pine, and the bigger trees, not grasses. The Burn Index is the burn intensity that a fire will burn of the 1000-hour fuels, the intensity they will burn. We are at an 86% there. He said up above you see the determination of the different classes that I go by for the levels. We're a little low right now but with the flame intensities and the fire activity that I've seen on the Little Bear fire we need to go into the Level II Restrictions. The fire activity was extreme throughout the woods. I had 200-300 flame lengths above the tree line. The County and Ruidoso has also put in restrictions. The State Forestry and Forest Service has closed down everything. Our Level II is the same as Ruidoso. The County, the State, and the Forest Service are a little different than ours. I'd like to see us go into Level II.

Councilor Miller asked Kenny Ellard to explain the difference in Level II.

Kenny Ellard said Level II is no outdoor smoking, no charcoal grills, no wood-burning grills, no outdoor burning whatsoever. Gas grill are still allowed. Even in our Level III last year we changed the ordinance to where gas grills were allowed in Level III.

Councilor Holman asked if there were restrictions on chainsaws and that kind of thing?

Kenny Ellard said not in our ordinance, we don't deal with a lot of chainsaws in the forest. We're surrounded by the Forest Service so the Forest Service regulates that and yes they do have that in place.

Councilor Miller said the State one last night on the news, does that also cover us? Do we have to follow the State regulations?

Kenny Ellard said it doesn't cover municipalities, BIA lands, etc. and that's why we have to do our own.

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said she I do want to make you aware that the resolution for Fire Restrictions Level II is only for a 60-day period. So, I would also request from Mr. Ellard that if he needs to request to change it to Level I, II, or III that you come in the office so we can make a request and put it on the agenda and alleviate the need for Special Meetings for this.

Kenny Ellard said we have forecasts for 10 to 20 to 30% for rains for next week. That is too low of a percentage to mess with for rainfall and if we start getting rain I will be the first one to come in to lower the restrictions.

Councilor Perry asked what about the welding? Do we have a deal on that?

Kenny Ellard said it is not specified in our ordinances. You can do anything like that. I try when we get into restrictions to look around the community to see if we have any welding projects going on. I'm in touch with a couple of welding businesses that we have in town. I try to work with them and advise them, hey, maybe not today and so on. But, with the new Fire Ordinances I am trying to work with that and the chainsaws

Councilor Perry said several years back somewhere in Capitan they started a fire with a chainsaw.

Councilor Miller asked if there was a certain amount of rain by inches that we would need to change the ordinance?

Kenny Ellard said we're going to need some pretty good rains to drop it down. What I go off is the Smokey Bear Ranger District has a weather station that takes the weather, fuel content, the moisture of the fuels and calculates all of them and it's on a SWCC website where all the fire departments go to and determine what stage to be in. It uses a chart of where the moisture contents are.

Councilor Holman asked what he was hearing about what's going to happen with the extensive ash and the tributaries that's going to feed in and related to our Treatment Plant also?

Kenny Ellard said they had a meeting with the ICP last night at 5:00 to get all of the different agencies together for the flooding and raining especially in the Bonito area and Eagle Creek and Ski Area roads. Also the ski mountain itself we have filling it's going to come around behind Cow Mountain and come into the Rio Ruidoso. I have another meeting today at 1:30 with Travis Atwell and several of the other forest managers to get a preparedness together to work on this issue when it does occur. There is going to be quite a bit of debris coming down off the mountain. That is moonscaped up there and all we have is burnt trees

Councilor Holman said all they can hope for is a slow drizzle.

Kenny Ellard said even a slow drizzle will get us because that country up there is so burnt and hard there are places like in the White Fire where no moisture is going to soak into that for a year or two.

Councilor Holman said the Treatment Plant is a concern.

Mayor Williams entertained a motion to approve Resolution No. 2012-09 City of Ruidoso Downs Fire Restrictions Level II.

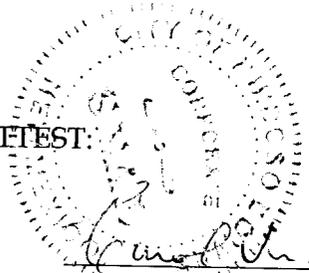
Councilor Hood moved to approve Resolution No. 2012-09 City of Ruidoso Downs fire Restrictions Level II. Seconded by Councilor Perry.

Roll call votes: Councilor Holman, Aye; Councilor Hood Aye; Councilor Miller, Aye; Councilor Perry, Aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend to, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

ATTEST:



Carol Virden

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer

Gary L. Williams

Gary L. Williams, Mayor