

CITY OF COMO
ORDINANCE
2017-17

An Ordinance requiring permits for starting or maintaining a bonfire within the City of Como, defining the term "bonfire," establishing safety requirements for bonfires, and establishing a penalty.

WHEREAS the conflagration that occurred at Texas A & M University a few years back underscores the need to regulate bonfires; and

WHEREAS the governing body of the City of Como, Texas, has determined that it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the Como citizenry to require permits for starting or maintaining a bonfire within the City of Como,

BE IT ORDAINED THAT BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF COMO, TEXAS

Section A

Definitions

"Bonfire," as used herein, means a large, open air kindled fire that has a diameter of ten feet (10') or greater.

Section B

Bonfire and Permit Requirements

- 1) No person shall kindle or maintain any bonfire without first obtaining a written permit from the City Secretary or Police Chief. The permit shall be limited to a single date and location. A fee for the permit may be imposed as set from time to time by the governing body of the City of Como. The permit applicant must be 21 years of age and must be the responsible party to attend the entire bonfire and to act as the contact person for City officials.
- 2) Bonfires shall not be located within fifty feet from any house, storage building, or other substantial structure.
- 3) The City may limit the quality of and type of material to be burned, depending on fire safety considerations and the duration of the burn.
- 4) Bonfire materials shall be limited to dry wood material only, and treated, painted or clad wood shall not be included in any bonfire.
- 5) An adequate fire suppression source must be immediately available to extinguish the fire if a safety issue develops.

- 6) After completion of the bonfire, it must be completely extinguished and a fire watch must be provided for a sufficient amount of time to ensure that the fire does not rekindle.
- 7) Should smoke or ash residue unreasonably migrate to the adjacent properties, resulting in bona fide complaints to City Hall or the Fire Department, or should a Fire or Police official determine an unreasonable safety risk has developed, such official may order that the bonfire be immediately extinguished and the permittee shall promptly comply with such order.
- 8) The debris remaining after a bonfire has been extinguished shall be removed permittee and the area left clean and neat.

Section C

Penalty for Violation

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this article shall, upon conviction, be fined up to \$200.00 (two hundred dollars) per violation and each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Passed and Approved 3-14-17

Ron Wacker Mayor

Patsy Evans Commissioner

Don Yeels Commissioner

Attest

[Signature]
City Secretary