Ordinance No. 1461

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IOWA PARK, TEXAS DECLARING A STATE OF DISASTER FOR THE CITY OF IOWA PARK RESULTING FROM THE POTENTIAL THREAT OF FIRES DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND IMPLEMENTING TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS FOR THE USE OF COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS IN AN OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT AND ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATORS.

Whereas, due to an ongoing drought and the accompaniment of adverse weather conditions, Iowa Park faces an increase to the potential threat of fires which would have the ability to adversely affect the lives and properties of its citizenry; and

Whereas, this possible state of disaster requires that emergency measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to emergency management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IOWA PARK, TEXAS that:

Section 1.

As the City's Emergency Management Director, the Mayor has declared a state of disaster for Iowa Park, Texas.

Section 2.

The following temporary restrictions shall apply for the use of combustible materials in an outdoor environment:

a) Individuals grilling, smoking or cooking in an outdoor environment must meet each of the following requirements:

    1) cooking appliances must fully contain any and all combustible material and must have a metal covering (mesh-type or expanded metal type coverings are prohibited);
    2) cooking appliances must be attended at all times when combustible material is contained within;
    3) when cooking appliances are in use, either a twenty-five pound (25#) working fire extinguisher or fifty feet (50') of charged water hose with a spray nozzle must be present;
    4) all cooking appliances, when in use, must be placed on a non-combustible surface extending two feet (2') beyond each side of the appliance; and
    5) upon completion of the cooking process, all fuel gas valves to the appliance must be closed and other combustible materials within the appliance must be immersed or saturated with water before said appliance is left unattended.

b) Individuals welding, cutting or grinding metal in an outdoor environment must meet each of the following requirements:

1) the welding, cutting or grinding process must involve a minimum of two (2) individuals and the second person must maintain a vigilant watch over the area where the welding, cutting or grinding is occurring.
2) combustible materials, including grasses, brush and weeds, within a fifty foot (50') radius of the work area will be removed before the welding, cutting or grinding process begins;
3) welding, cutting and/or grinding is strictly prohibited when any wind is in excess of fifteen miles per hour (15 mph); and
4) when welders, cutting torches and grinders are in use, either two twenty-five pound (25#) working fire extinguishers or one hundred and fifty feet (150') of charged water hose with a spray nozzle must be present.

Section 3.

These restrictions shall take effect immediately upon passage of this ordinance and shall remain in effect until repealed through ordinance by the City's governing body.

Section 4.

The restrictions in this ordinance are adopted pursuant to Article 1.07 of the Code of Ordinances, 2004, City of Iowa Park, Texas (the "Code") and shall henceforth be a part of the City's Emergency Management Plan. Violations of any of the restrictions of this ordinance shall constitute a violation of Section 1.07.008 (a) of the Code of Ordinances and shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000.00), as provided in Section 1.07.008 (d) of the Code.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this the 23rd day of March, 2026.

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Mayor Jeff Pogatshnik

ATTEST:

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City Secretary Janice Newman