

Resolution Relating to

ALLOW PERMITS FOR SAFE OPERATION
OF CONTAINED OUTDOOR FIRES DURING
COVID-19 WINTER

RESOLUTION_____

Sponsor(s): Councilors Shannon, Paul,
Mason, Carpenter

Introduced: _____

Referred to: _____

Action: _____

Date: _____

Signed by Mayor: _____

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

1 That WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, residents have been encouraged to socialize outside to
2 avoid spreading disease; and

3 WHEREAS, with winter approaching it will become increasingly challenging for people to continue to
4 socialize outside in the cold weather; and

5 WHEREAS, outdoor socializing could be extended with the use of outdoor fires or heating devices,
6 and

7 WHEREAS, fire safety in the City remains a primary concern; and

8 WHEREAS, residents with breathing issues may be negatively impacted by outdoor fires; and

9 WHEREAS, the negative impacts of outdoor fires may be minimized during the winter when most
10 residents are inside with windows closed; and

11 WHEREAS, our current fire safety ordinance (BCO § 13-3(b)) does allow for the Chief of the Fire
12 Department to issue permits for building an outdoor fire in a fireplace or receptacle; and

13 WHEREAS, such permits have not been made available to residents;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby requests the Fire Chief
15 establish a process whereby residents can apply for a seasonal permit from November 1, 2020 to April 30,
16 2021 to burn clean, dry firewood outdoors if they meet criteria established by the Burlington Fire Chief; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council suggests to the Fire Chief that the following
18 conditions be considered in establishing rules for permits:

- 19 1. Fires shall be contained in fire safe receptacles as determined by the Fire Chief;
- 20 2. The fire shall be continuously attended;
- 21 3. A water source must be readily available at all times;
- 22 4. Burning of non-wood materials, painted wood, or treated wood is prohibited;
- 23 5. The fire must be a minimum distance (established by Fire Chief) from any structure, fence, or
24 property line;
- 25 6. The container must be located on a non-combustible surface;
- 26 7. Fires must be fully extinguished by 10:00 p.m.;

27 8. Neighbor complaints may result in the termination of the permit; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a reasonable permit fee may be established by the Board of
29 Finance for a Contained Outdoor Fire Permit.

30

31

32 lb/JSJ/Resolutions 2020/City Council – Allow Permits for Safe Operation of Outdoor Fires during COVID-19 Winter

33 10/1/20