

## M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** Tom Harmer, Town Manager  
**FROM:** Paul Dezzi, Fire Chief  
**REPORT DATE:** December 29, 2021  
**MEETING DATE:** January 10, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Ordinance 2022-01, Amending Chapter 96, Health and Sanitation, Gas Fire Pits Outside Structures

### **Recommended Action**

Forward Ordinance 2022-01 to February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting for second reading and public hearing.

### **Background**

Over the past year we have had multiple developers seeking permits to install gas fire pits outside of structures (i.e. yards, patios, pool decks). These are in commercial structures, multi-family, and single-family homes. This is a trend that has become very popular and shows no sign of decreasing over time.

Open fires are currently prohibited in Section 96.11 with a few exceptions:

- (A) Open fires for the cooking of food for human consumption on other than commercial premises.
- (B) Fires to abate a fire hazard, providing the hazard is so declared by the fire department.
- (C) Fires for the prevention or control of disease or pests.
- (D) Fires for training personnel in the methods of fighting fires.
- (E) Fires for the disposal of dangerous materials, where there is no alternate method of disposal and burning is approved by the town manager.

Permitting for these type gas fire pits is not provided for in our Town Code as far as applying for, or obtaining building permits.

The Fire Marshal and Building Official are the staff responsible to conduct review and approval for permitting, as well as building inspections for installation of natural gas and propane gas pits.

Staff has developed language that will address this type of installation within our Town Code and remain consistent and compliant with Statewide Building Code and Fire Prevention Code. Staff has the ability to inspect for setbacks, piping, fuel installation, and other safety factors related to the gas fire pits outside of structures. These applications, permits and inspections are all provided for in the Florida Building Code, and Fire Prevention Code.

Ordinance 2022-01 modifies Town Code Section 96.11 to add subsection (F):

- (F) Outside fire pit equipment that is permanently installed in accordance with applicable Florida and National Fire Codes and manufacturer's instructions shall be permitted. A permit from the Town of Longboat Key for natural or

propane gas installation shall be required for any permanently installed fire pit.

**Staff Recommendation**

Forward to February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting for second reading and public hearing.

**Attachments**

- A. Ordinance 2022-01 (available in the Town Clerk's Office)
- B. PowerPoint Presentation (available in the Town Clerk's Office)

**End of Agenda Item**