

BRIGHTON TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Monday, June 29th, 2026, at 6:30 pm

**Approved at the Brighton Town Council Meeting on July 14th, 2026*

ATTENDANCE

Council: Scotty John (Mayor and meeting chair)

Council Members: Keith Zusan, Lise Brunhart, Jeff Bossard, Carolyn Keigley

Staff: Polly McLean, Nate Rockwood, Jane Martain, Kara John, Laura Bossard

Partners: UPD- Tyler Ackerman, UFA- Craig Ellingson, BCCA- Barbara Cameron

Public: Chad Smith, Brian Reynolds

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor John called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

BUSINESS

a. Consideration and possible action on an ORDINANCE ADOPTING FIRE RESTRICTIONS MATCHING THE STATE OF UTAH STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS WITHIN THE TOWN OF BRIGHTON

Mayor Scotty John opened discussion by noting public confusion regarding recently announced fire restrictions and the distinction between Town, State, and federal jurisdictions. Council members agreed that the overlapping authorities of the Town, the State of Utah, and the U.S. Forest Service have created uncertainty for residents and visitors. The state implemented Stage 2 fire restrictions, but it doesn't apply to the Town or Forest Service land.

Polly McLean, Town Attorney, gave an overview of the proposed ordinance and explained that Brighton already maintains year-round restrictions on fireworks due to historic hazardous environmental conditions. The Town code also has existing limitations on open flames and smoking that resemble Stage 1 restrictions. She clarified that the Governor's recent emergency declaration regarding fireworks did not alter Brighton's existing regulations because the Town already prohibits fireworks during the summer fire season. Polly explained that adoption of Stage 2 Fire Restrictions would further prohibit open flames, including campfires, charcoal grills, wood-burning devices, in addition to activities or devices that emit sparks, within the Town's jurisdiction. The only exceptions are for approved spark arrestors and pressurized gas, or liquid-fueled devices equipped with shutoff valves and used in accordance with safety requirements.

Council discussed questions regarding the definition of "permanently improved places of habitation," existing Town code provisions, and how those provisions differ from the proposed Stage 2 restrictions. Council also discussed the importance of simplifying the Town's fire code in the future to improve public understanding.

Chief Craig Ellingson emphasized that the primary concern during current fire conditions is the risk posed by embers generated from wood, charcoal, and similar fuels. He encouraged the Council to focus restrictions on activities capable of producing embers and advised against creating multiple exceptions that could complicate enforcement or public understanding.

Council discussed the “particularly dangerous situation” with the current wildfires throughout the state and gave support for local restrictions. Conflicting information was identified regarding pellet stoves, smokers and other cooking devices, which are allowed in Stage 2. After reviewing the language of the proposed ordinance, Polly clarified that the ordinance mirrors the State's Stage 2 restrictions regarding approved pressurized gas and liquid-fueled devices.

Scotty emphasized the extraordinary fire danger facing Utah and encouraged residents and visitors to exercise common sense by avoiding any activity that could create a wildfire, even where technical exceptions may exist.

Council Member Lise Brunhart moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-O-6-1 adopting Stage 2 Fire Restrictions within the Town of Brighton, matching the State of Utah Stage 2 Fire Restrictions.

Council Member Jeff Bossard seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Lise Brunhart: Aye

Jeff Bossard: Aye

Scotty John: Aye

Keith Zuspan: Aye

Carolyn Keigley: Aye

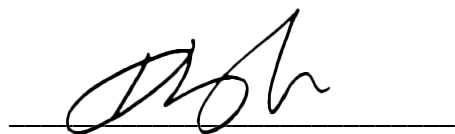
b. Discussion on fire restrictions and prohibitions generally

Polly McLean recommended future amendments to the Town Code to provide clearer definitions for terms such as "permanently improved places of habitation" and "facilities provided for fires," and to evaluate whether additional prohibited activities, such as welding, spark-producing equipment, and other ember-producing devices, should be expressly addressed in Town code outside of emergency Stage 2 restrictions.

Fires are not allowed under the short-term rental code, but it could be added to this section as well. Council agreed that future revisions should simplify the code while maintaining appropriate public safety protections.

ADJOURN

Jeff moved to adjourn and Lise seconded. The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 7:06PM.



Submitted by Kara John, Town Clerk