



**AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING OUTDOOR FIREPLACES, MANUFACTURED OUTDOOR
FIREPLACES, AND OUTDOOR FIRE PITS OR FIRE BOWLS, THEIR FUEL AND THEIR
LOCATIONS**

Be It Ordained By The Council of the City of Parkersburg that the City of Parkersburg
Municipal Code is hereby amended with the addition of the following:

Outdoor Fireplaces, Manufactured Outdoor Fireplaces, Outdoor Fire Pits and Fire Bowls.

A. Definitions

1. "Outdoor fireplace" means a freestanding fireplace, manufactured of stone, concrete block, concrete, metal, ceramic or any other non-combustible material, with an enclosed burn chamber, solid or screened opening, and chimney with spark arrestor.
2. "Manufactured outdoor fireplace" means a freestanding fireplace manufactured of metal, ceramic or other non-combustible material, or any combination thereof.
3. "Outdoor fire pit or fire bowl" means a freestanding fireplace manufactured of stone, concrete, metal, ceramic or other non-combustible material.
4. This ordinance does not apply to grilling or cooking food using charcoal, clean wood, propane, or natural gas in cooking or grilling appliances.

B. Conditions of Use

1. The conditions for use of any outdoor fireplace, manufactured outdoor fireplace, outdoor fire pit or fire bowl.
 - a. Shall be for single-family residential property only.
 - b. Must be located at least fifteen (15) feet from any combustible material or structures and be placed on a non-combustible base;
 - c. Are prohibited for use on wooden decks or balconies;
 - d. Any fire must be entirely contained within the outdoor fireplace;
 - e. Any fire must be constantly attended by an adult, until the fire is extinguished;
2. The fire official is authorized to order the extinguishment of the fire by the person(s) responsible, upon finding any of the listed above conditions.

3. An approved means of extinguishment shall be available for immediate use at all times during use. Approved means to include a portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating, a working garden hose connected to a reliable water source, or other approved on-site extinguishing agent.
4. When, **in the opinion of the fire official**, a hazard exists due to the use of the fireplace that is not specifically defined within this ordinance, the fire official, using good sound judgment and in consideration of the conditions that could present a hazard due to the use of the fireplace, shall have the authority to have the fire extinguished.

C. Wood Burning

1. Only clean dry seasoned firewood shall be burned. No flammable/combustible liquids shall be used to start the fire, only self ignited logs or the use of kindling wood or paper shall be used.

D. LP/Gas

1. Tank size is limited to 20 lbs. propane or an approved direct connection to gas piping from the residence.

E. Conflict of Law

1. To the extent that this article conflicts with Article 1517 of the City of Parkersburg Codified Ordinances, this article shall take precedence.

F. Severability

1. If any provision, clause, sentence or paragraph of this article or the application thereof, to any person, establishment or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not invalidate the other provisions or application of this article.

G. Exemptions

1. Nothing in this article shall prohibit small cooking or warming fires between the hours of 5:00 p.m. to midnight, provided that the site or location of the fire is approved by the Fire Chief or his designated representative. Such

fires shall burn only natural wood (twigs, logs, etc.) which shall not be piled higher than two (2) feet nor more than three (3) feet in width and provided further that all combustible material be at least fifteen (15) feet from such fire.

2. Bonfires for the sole purpose of pep rallies shall be permitted with the approval of the Fire Chief and shall be supervised by the Fire Department.
3. All fires shall be attended to by an adult at all times and shall be totally extinguished when not so attended.

H. Penalty

1. Any person, firm, corporation, association or public agency violating any of the provisions of this article shall be subject to those penalties more expressly set forth in Section 1517.99 of the City of Parkersburg Codified Ordinances.

Sponsored by: Public Works Committee