



Staff Report

For City Council Meeting - 8/3/2022

Subject - Ordinances/Resolutions - Resolution #974 - Weapons Banned From Gearhart City Council Meetings

Synopsis: At the request of some members of Council, staff began researching increased security measures for City Hall, including the installation of crash doors with card key readers, security cameras, and metal detection. It has been requested that any object defined as a “deadly weapon” in the State of Oregon be banned from City Council meetings, and metal detection be used for enforcement.

Recommendation: Staff has no recommendation; this is a Council decision. Council may motion to approve Resolution #974 banning weapons from Council meetings and permitting the use of metal detection to enforce the ban, or not.

Legal Analysis: SB554 allows the City to invoke the ban. City Attorney Peter Watt can elaborate.

Financial Analysis: The purchase is under \$5,000 for the equipment, and staff expenses are yet to be seen, but will be ongoing. The City will debrief the Council on the purchase specifics of the metal detector later in the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a few loops and a horizontal stroke.

Chad



RESOLUTION NO. 974

WEAPONS BANNED FROM GEARHART CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the City of Gearhart is interested in ensuring that people can safely attend City Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing rise in shootings in Oregon;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Gearhart adopts the attached "Policy Regarding Safety Measures and Security Screenings at City Council Meetings".

Passed by the City Council of Gearhart this 3rd day of August, 2022.

Yeas: _____

Nays: _____

Absent: _____

Abstain: _____

Approved and signed by the Mayor of Gearhart this 3rd day of August, 2022

Mayor Kerry Smith

ATTEST: City Administrator, Chad Sweet



**POLICY REGARDING SAFETY MEASURES AND
SECURITY SCREENINGS AT CITY COUNCIL
MEETINGS**

All visitors to Gearhart City Council meetings held in the Council Chambers must pass through a metal detector or are subject to a screening with a hand-held metal detection wand, in order to prevent deadly weapons from entering City Council meetings. The security screening is similar to screenings at large public venues and government buildings and is for the purpose of public safety and to limit intimidation of individuals who wish to attend and/or speak at City Council meetings and is not for the purpose of locating contraband.

"Deadly weapon" is defined by the Oregon State Statute:

ORS 161.015 (2): "Deadly weapon" means any instrument, article or substance specifically designed for and presently capable of causing death or serious physical injury.

Examples of a "deadly weapon" shall include, but are not limited to: Any firearm, bow, crossbow, or slingshot that shoots or ejects a bullet, pellet, arrow, BB, dart or other projectile by explosion, gas propulsion, spring propulsion or by any other means of propulsion, or any knife (excepting legal pocket knives having a blade length of four inches or less), sword, or explosive device, or any replica of any such deadly weapon.

Any item which falls under the above definitions is prohibited in the City Council Chambers unless otherwise stated herein.

Before entry into the Council Chambers is permitted, visitors will be asked to pass through a metal detector or are subject to a screening with a hand-held metal detection wand. **Security screenings are not for purposes of searches to find contraband.** If the metal detection alarm sounds, the visitor subject to the screening will have an opportunity to return to their vehicle to return or remove items from their bag, pack, or container, or ask for a visual inspection of the bag or other items. Those visitors who return to their cars or remove items from their bags or container can return for a subsequent metal detection check.

Excessive repeat metal detection alerts or refusal to clear the metal detection process absent an exception as stated herein, will result in denied entry and a temporary trespass from entering the City

Council meeting (until another subsequent meeting).

Exceptions - Medical and Mobility Devices and Service Animals.

Visitors with prosthetics, casts, splints and other metal implants should advise security staff if they have any of these items.

Visitors who use mobility devices (i.e. wheelchairs, crutches, canes, or strollers), who are able to pass through a metal detector without their mobility device will be asked to do so; if they are unable to pass through the metal detector they will be subject to a screening with a hand-held metal detection wand.

Visitors with medical conditions that require needles, oxygen tanks, or other medical instruments required for their safety will be permitted to enter with the device required for their medical necessity and safety.

Individuals with service animals must walk through the detector with their service animal. If the alarm sounds, security staff will screen the service animal using visual and hand-held wand techniques.