



CITY OF SALINAS
LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

FROM: KRISTAN LUNDQUIST, LCS DIRECTOR

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 28-14 OF THE SALINAS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO GENERAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF PARKS, RECREATION AREAS OR FACILITIES

RECOMMENDATION:

A motion recommending that the Salinas City Council adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 28-14 of the Salinas Municipal Code related to General Regulations Governing the Use of Parks, Recreation Areas or Facilities.

BACKGROUND:

Chapter 28 of the Salinas Municipal Code was established in 1956 to govern the use of Recreation and Parks Services in the City of Salinas. Since that time, the Ordinance has been updated as needed to address emerging issues relating to operations of the Recreation-Park Department. The last update was approved in 2009 and amended Sec. 28-14 (b) which prohibits the use of fireworks in parks, recreation areas or facilities. In effort to address concerns regarding the use of the parking lots at various Recreation-Park facilities and use of parks for campaign-related activities, staff recommend the following update to the Salinas Municipal Code.

Parking Lot Use

The City has eleven (11) Recreation-Park facilities that have parking lots including seven (7) adjacent to park facilities. Of the 7 parking lots located at park facilities, 4 have gates which provide the ability for the parking lot to be closed outside of regular park hours. These locations include: El Dorado Community Park, McKinnon Neighborhood Park, Monte Bella Community Park and Sherwood Community Park. While these parks have gates, the use of the gates varies by neighborhood and a variety of factors. In some locations, safety and security necessitates the closure of the parking lots. This can be problematic when unattended vehicles are parked in the parking lots when staff or contractors attempt to close the lots. In an effort to address unattended vehicles left in a parking lot, staff is seeking to add language to the Ordinance regarding the use of parking lots. This will provide for the ability to tow unattended vehicles parking in the parking lots outside of the park hours (dawn to dusk).

Campaign-Related Activities and Signs

Another addition is guidance related to the placement of noncommercial signs and park use in conjunction with a primary or general election. Currently, Salinas Municipal Code and state law prohibits the placement of temporary noncommercial message signs including but not limited to campaign signs on any city property, buildings, right-of-way, utility poles, streetlights, street signs, trees, sidewalks or median islands, parks or any other public area. However, the use of a City facility such as the open space between City Hall and the Rotunda or a city park that is an equally available to all candidates and in use for campaign-related activity as a public forum is allowed.

There are other minor non substantive changes clarifying two other sections.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This ordinance update supports the following strategic goals:

- Youth and Seniors
- Public Safety

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

Library & Community Services Department staff coordinated with the City Attorney, City Clerk and Police Department on this update.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

ATTACHMENTS:

Draft Ordinance