

**ORDINANCE NO. 400**

**PARKESBURG BOROUGH  
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PARKESBURG, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PROHIBITING “OPEN BURNING” WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE BOROUGH OR PARKESBURG, ESTABLISHING LIMITATIONS ON THE EXCEPTIONS TO THE GENERAL PROHIBITION, CONTAINING ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY PROVISIONS, REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Parkesburg, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:

***SECTION I*            SHORT TITLE**

- A.     This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Parkesburg Borough Open Burning Ordinance”.

***SECTION II*            DEFINITIONS**

- A.     “Borough”: The Borough of Parkesburg, Chester County, Pennsylvania.
- B.     “Open Burning”: The burning of any material or combination of materials where the products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without first passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber inside of any building. For purposes of this definition, a chamber is considered “enclosed” when, during the time combustion is taking place, the only apertures, ducts, stacks, flutes or chimneys open to the outside air are those necessary to admit combustion air or

those necessary to permit the escape of exhaust gases from the fire to the outside of any building, and they into the ambient air.

- C. "Recreational Fire": An outdoor fire utilized to cook food for human consumption.
- D. "Person": Any individual, partnership, association, corporation, department, bureau, agency or other similar legal entity.
- E. "Outdoor Barbeque Structure": Any commercially constructed grill or commercially or non-commercially constructed masonry grill used for the purpose of heating, cooking and preparing food for the purpose of consumption.

### **SECTION III      PROHIBITION AGAINST OUTDOOR BURNING**

- A. Within the municipal limits of the Borough, no person shall cause, allow, permit, kindle, ignite or maintain any open burning outside of any building for any purpose, including by way of example and not by way of limitation, any junk fire, refuse fire, open fire, salvage operation fire, or any other open fire.

### **SECTION IV      EXCEPTIONS**

- A. The prohibition against open burning as set forth in Section III above shall not apply to:
  - 1. Any fire ignited to prevent or abate a fire hazard;
  - 2. Any fire ignited for the purpose of instructing firefighting personnel or to demolish a fire hazard (including a structure or structures);
  - 3. Any fire ignited for the prevention and control of disease or pests;
  - 4. Any fire ignited in conjunction with the production of agricultural commodities in their un-manufactured state on the premises of a farm operation; and
  - 5. Any fire ignited solely for ceremonial purposes, such as a bonfire.

B. The exceptions listed in Section IV.A., above, shall be permitted if any only if any open burning done pursuant to these exceptions are:

1. Authorized by the Parkesburg Borough Council;
2. Done under the supervision of a Member of the Parkesburg Fire Department No. 1; and
3. To the extent required, authorized by a permit duly issued by the Commonwealth of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP").

**SECTION V            EXEMPTION FOR RECREATIONAL FIRES**

A. It shall be lawful at any time for any person to start kindle and maintain a recreational fire for the purpose of outdoor barbeques, provided that such fire is confined to an outdoor barbeque structure as defined herein, and is used solely for the heating, cooking and preparation of food products for the purpose of consumption.

**SECTION VI            AUTHORITY TO EXTINGUISH OUTDOOR FIRES**

A. Authority is hereby granted to the Parkesburg Fire Company No. 1 to extinguish any fire of any nature within the Borough when the Fire Chief or, in his absence, the highest acting officer of the Fire Department deems that conditions warrant such action

**SECTION VII            PENALTIES**

A. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) plus costs of prosecution.

**SECTION VIII      SEVERABILITY**

- A.      If any section or provision of this Ordinance is declared by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity shall not affect the constitutionality, legality or validity of this Ordinance as a whole, nor the constitutionality, legality or validity of any other section or provision of this Ordinance other than the one so declared to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid.

**SECTION IX      REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES**

- A.      All existing Ordinances of the Borough of Parkesburg or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**SECTION X      EFFECTIVE DATE**

- A.      This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days upon enactment.

**ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the Council of the Borough of Parkesburg in a Public Meeting held this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2001.