Discussion of an ordinance prohibiting the unlawful carrying of loaded firearms in public places and an ordinance to prohibit endangering a child by allowing access to a firearm

FROM:
Dave Kanner, city administrator, dave.kanner@ashland.or.us

SUMMARY
Councilor Voisin has requested a Council discussion of two citizen-proposed ordinances for the purpose of determining whether to forward them to a business meeting agenda for Council consideration and action. One ordinance would make it a class A misdemeanor to endanger a child by failing to prevent access to a loaded or unloaded firearm by a minor without the permission of the person, a parent or guardian, when the person knew or reasonably should have known that a minor could gain access to the firearm. The other ordinance would make it a class A misdemeanor to knowingly possess or carry a firearm, in or upon a public place, including while in a vehicle in a public place, or recklessly having failed to remove all the ammunition from the firearm, unless the possessor holds a concealed handgun license or meets one of several exceptions.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:
Following the mass murder at the Navy Yard in Washington, DC, last September, an Ashland group calling itself “Citizens for a Safe Ashland,” wrote to the Council to request that the City consider adopting gun control measures similar to those adopted by Beaverton, Portland, Salem, Oregon City, Newport, Astoria and others that prohibit carrying loaded firearms in public, subject to several exceptions mandated by state law. A second ordinance, modeled on an ordinance adopted by the City of Portland in 2010, would make it a class A misdemeanor to endanger a child by failing to prevent access to a loaded or unloaded firearm by a minor. These ordinances were drafted by Citizens for a Safe Ashland, not by City staff.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:
None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND REQUESTED ACTION:
This item is scheduled for discussion only. Staff seeks direction on whether to schedule these ordinances for a future business meeting.

SUGGESTED MOTION
N/A

ATTACHMENTS:
Draft ordinances.