

Staff Report

Report To: Corporate Services Committee
Report From: Greg Nicol, Fire Prevention Officer
Meeting Date: May 11, 2023
Report Code: CR-23-043
Subject: Amendment to Fireworks By-law No. 2022-050

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-23-043 respecting an Amendment to Fireworks By-law No. 2022-050, the Corporate Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to amend Fireworks By-law No. 2022-050 to provide exemptions for City use of high hazard fireworks or high hazard flares and signals as outlined in the report.

Highlights:

- The new wording is as follows –

16.1 - Notwithstanding the requirements of section 16 of this by-law, the City of Owen Sound does not require an exemption to this by-law where high-hazard fireworks or high-hazard flares or signals are being used for the following events:

- a. Any City of Owen Sound event*
- b. Any emergency services training*

Strategic Plan Alignment:

This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Previous Report/Authority:

N/A

Background:

The existing Fireworks By-law regulates the use and sale of low-hazard and high-hazard fireworks in the City of Owen Sound and has been in use since 2022.

Staff have historically requested an exemption for Canada Day, the Festival of Northern Lights and other Civic events, which Council has always accepted. Moving forward, staff would like to enshrine the exemption in the by-law along with other instances where fireworks may be used.

Analysis:

The existing Fireworks By-law requires an exemption by resolution or by-law for City events on City property. This requires staff and council time to review 2-3 times per year. Council has always accepted the exemption. The addition of 16.1 would allow for these events to be conducted without the requirement of an exemption. The new wording states: *16.1 - Notwithstanding the requirements of section 16 of this by-law, the City of Owen Sound does not require an exemption to this by-law where high-hazard fireworks or high-hazard flares or signals are being used for the following events:*

- a. Any City of Owen Sound event*
- b. Any emergency services training*

Financial Implications:

There are no anticipated financial implications currently.

Communication Strategy:

Presenting this report to the Corporate Services Committee.

The communication plan will target all relevant agencies and stakeholders.

Notice of intention to amend the Fireworks By-law will be provided on the City's website in accordance with the City's Notice By-law.

Consultation:

Phil Eagleson, Fire Chief

Doug McEwen, Fire Prevention Inspector

Kristen Van Alphen, Manager of Legislative Services

Jennifer Wright, Events and Activation Co-ordinator

Attachments:

Draft Fireworks By-law No. 2023-XXX

Recommended by:

Greg Nicol, Fire Prevention Inspector

Phil Eagleson, Fire Chief

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Greg Nicol, Fire Prevention Officer, at gnicol@owensound.ca or 519-376-2512.