



Report n° 2025-003
Date: January 16th, 2025
Submitted by: Martin Saumure
Subject: Fireworks Bylaw Review

Nature/Goal

To update bylaw 2022-51 regarding the sell of consumer fireworks within the City of Clarence-Rockland.

Directive/Previous policy

At its regular council meeting of November 13th, 2024, council adopted resolution 2024-115, mandating the administration to review the existing fireworks bylaw, focusing on modernizing the sale of consumer fireworks within the city.

Department's recommendation

Whereas Council as adopted bylaw 2022-51, Fireworks Bylaw, to control the use and sale of consumer and display fireworks

Whereas the current bylaw as not been reviewed since 2022

Whereas the current fireworks bylaw limits the use of consumer fireworks to only 4 days per year, being New Years Day, Victoria Day, St-Jean Batiste Day and Canada Day, and the sale of consumer fireworks to the 7 days preceding those days.

Be it resolved that Council adopts the proposed changes to bylaw 2022-51 for the sale of consumer fireworks within the city.

Qu'il soit résolu que le Conseil Municipale adopte les changements proposés au règlement 2022-51, pour la vente des feux d'artifices aux consommateurs dans la cité.

Background

In 2022, Council approved bylaw 2022-51, know as the Fireworks Bylaw. In that bylaw, the use and sale of consumer and display fireworks is regulated to certain days of the year and the week preceding those specific days. This has been part of the Fireworks Bylaw for several years now.

Back in 2024, a merchant here in the city moved to a new location. During the business approval process, the merchant met hurdles in the approval process where the new business license could not be approved as the new location did not meet the requirements of the Fireworks bylaw and the fire code. Section 5.2 of the fire code has strict regulations for the sale and storage of fireworks, and this is also regulated under the Explosive Acts

(Canada). The current bylaw also prohibits the sale of fireworks unless on the specified days.

This issue has led to many discussions as to why the city was regulating the sale of fireworks and prohibiting merchants to sell consumer fireworks all year long.

Discussion

Regulating the sale of consumer fireworks is imperative to the safety of all. Whether for the occupants of a building, citizens of the city or firefighters.

We do not currently have high instances of incidents being caused by fireworks, but other areas have seen an increase of incidents being caused by consumer fireworks in the last few years. By allowing the sale of consumer fireworks year-round, we may see an increase in complaints from the public but also increase in emergency incidents caused by fireworks.

The current bylaw amendments would regulate the sale of consumer fireworks to adults only, persons 18 years and older, ensure safe storage of consumer fireworks, where they would be sold and imposing quantity restrictions to be stored within a building.

A building would also be subject to regular fire safety inspections and would have to meet sections of the fire code that would not necessarily apply if no fireworks were present in the building.

In turn, the sale of consumer fireworks would be allowed year-round if a merchant follows the requirements of the bylaw.

Consultation

None

Recommendations or comments from committee/ other departments

None

Financial impact (expenses/material/etc.)

None

Legal implications

None

Risk management

The storage of fireworks within buildings presents an increased risk to occupants of a building should a fire occur but also represents a huge risk to responding firefighters. By implementing maximum quantities to be stored at any given time, and how the consumer fireworks are stored will minimize

the risk to building occupants and firefighters. The implementation of a fire safety plan for buildings storing and selling fireworks will provide valuable information to responding firefighters. Regardless of restrictions imposed, the storage, handling and sale of explosives will always represent a risk

Strategic implications

The review of the bylaw to allow the sale of fireworks year round adheres to the strategic plan by meeting the community cohesion strategy where we demonstrate that we are open to ideas of our business community and demonstrate the city remains a desirable place to do business in.

Supporting documents

None