

Ordinance Committee
June 24, 2026
4:00PM

Present: Bob Griffith, Terry McWilliams, Kent White, Mayor Steve Brimhall, Joe Taylor, Shelbi Swinscoe, Gary Shahan, Lyle Murray, Drew Schumacher

Residents: Corey Dannelson, Holly Bash and Arthur Bash

Absent: None

Called to order at 4:00pm

Fireworks Ordinance Discussion

The Committee discussed the City's fireworks ordinance following concerns received from residents regarding the current regulations. Discussion focused on the existing ordinance, which permits the discharge of consumer fireworks from June 21 through July 6, with extended hours on July 4 and the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding July 4.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, several residents expressed concerns regarding the length of the current fireworks season and the impact of fireworks on pets and neighborhoods. Residents encouraged the Committee to reduce the number of days and/or hours fireworks are permitted within the city. During the discussion, the Committee acknowledged changes to Iowa law that become effective July 1, 2026. Under the new law, municipalities may not prohibit or restrict the discharge of consumer fireworks on July 3, July 4, and New Year's Eve.

City Administrator Joe Taylor and Council Member Terry McWilliams discussed the potential financial impacts of modifying the ordinance. Police Chief Murray also expressed support for reducing the number of hours per day fireworks are permitted within the city where allowed by state law.

Following discussion, the Committee voted on a recommendation to amend the City's fireworks ordinance. By a majority vote, with Kent White and Bob Griffith voting in favor and Terry McWilliams voting opposed, the Committee recommended eliminating the locally permitted fireworks season of June 21 through July 6 and limiting the discharge of consumer fireworks within the city to only the dates protected under Iowa law: July 3, July 4, and New Year's Eve. Because state law prohibits municipalities from restricting the hours of discharge on those dates, the

Committee did not establish local time limitations for July 3, July 4, or New Year's Eve.

Adjourned at 4:35pm

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____ Date: _____