



— TOWNSHIP OF —
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Council Report

STAFF: Florence Witherspoon, Clerk

DATE: September 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Noise and Sound By-Law Amendment - Fireworks

Recommendation

That Council request staff prepare an amendment to the Noise and Sound By-Law to reflect specified times, as proposed, when the discharging of Fireworks is permitted.

Background

The Township's Noise and Sound By-Law (07-2021) regulates the discharging of Fireworks in the Township. A review of the by-law has determined that the current language surrounding the discharging of Fireworks is vague and does not give direction to residents regarding what is permissible.

The Noise and Sound By-law generally prohibits a person to 'make, cause or permit an unreasonable noise, or a noise that is likely to disturb the inhabitants within a Settlement Area of the Municipality'. Exemptions to this provision apply, one of which is Fireworks – Pyrotechnics, allowing "the discharge of consumer fireworks, display fireworks or pyrotechnic special effects fireworks on statutory holidays." (Section 4.1(h) of the By-Law).

Comment

The discharging of Fireworks in various areas of the Township is common and controversial for a variety of reasons. The current language leaves a lot of room for interpretation and enforcing this section of the by-law is challenging. Having more specified regulations in place will help guide residents in when to appropriately discharge Fireworks, but also give information to those who have concerns about whether an event that is taking place is within a legal timeframe.

Staff proposes the following to replace the existing section in the by-law:

" 4.1 Despite any provision of this By-Law, this By-Law shall not apply to the following sounds arising from:

Fireworks – Pyrotechnics

(h) discharge of consumer fireworks, display fireworks or pyrotechnic special effects fireworks between dusk and 11pm on the two (2) days before and on the relevant statutory holiday. The following are the statutory holidays where the discharging of fireworks is permitted:

- New Year's Day
- Victoria Day
- Canada Day
- Civic Holiday
- Labour Day

The intent of the proposed amendment is to clarify precisely when Fireworks are permitted to be discharged.

Others Consulted

Mark Becker, CAO

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:



Florence Witherspoon
Clerk

Mark Becker
Chief Administrative Officer