



CORPORATE SERVICES

Staff Report

REPORT NO: COR-2025-23
TO: Council
SUBMITTED BY: Greg Clark, Director of Corporate Services / CFO
PREPARED BY: Kaitlin Bos, Manager of Legislative Services/Municipal Clerk
REVIEWED BY: Harold O’Krafka, Acting Chief Administrative Office
DATE: May 26, 2025
SUBJECT: Follow-up Information Regarding Report COR-2025-19 Fireworks
By-law Exemption – 23 Meadowcliff Place, Mannheim

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approves an exemption to the Township of Wilmot Fireworks By-law 2023-17 for the municipal address known as 23 Meadowcliff Place, Mannheim for Saturday, June 28th, 2025, from 9:00 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.

SUMMARY:

An exemption is being sought to By-law 2023-17 being the Fireworks By-law to allow for the setting off of fireworks for a 65th Birthday celebration taking place on Saturday, June 28th, 2025 from 9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

The Committee of the Whole discussed and debated Report COR-2025-19 Fireworks By-law Exemption – 23 Meadowcliff Place, Mannheim at their meeting on May 5, 2025. Council asked Staff if there would be any liability with approving this by-law exemption.

BACKGROUND:

Section 121 of the Municipal Act, 2001, grants municipalities the power to pass by-laws regarding various aspects of public safety, including fireworks regulations. Specifically, it allows municipalities to prohibit or regulate the sale and setting off of fireworks.

The Township of Wilmot’s Fireworks By-law 2023-17 came into force and effect on April 3rd, 2023. The Fireworks By-law permits the setting off of fireworks on Victoria Day, Canada Day, Diwali, Lunar New Year and the days immediately before and after the aforementioned list.

Historically, Council has provided opportunities for exemptions to its By-laws on an ad-hoc basis, including the Noise By-law to support community events and special occasions for both public and private functions.

REPORT:

The Township has received a request for a Fireworks By-law exemption for a 65th Birthday celebration. Since the Canada Day holiday falls on a Tuesday this year, the applicant is requesting this exemption to allow for a small private rear yard fireworks display to celebrate this milestone birthday on Saturday, June 28th, 2025.

The Committee of the Whole forwarded the approval of the by-law exemption to Council to ratify the decision to approve the firework by-law exemption. The staff report was published on the Agenda for the May 5, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting and at the time of the writing of this report there has been no subsequent feedback received from neighbours.

Township Staff investigated the liability component of granting the by-law exemption. Fireworks liability typically refers to the legal responsibility for injuries, property damage, or other harm caused by fireworks, either during their manufacturing, sale, or use. The decision before Council is a policy decision, not an operational decision and therefore the decision is generally protected from an increased risk of liability. The consideration in this should be focussed on the alignment and best practices of the policies related to the matter.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

Healthy Community

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.