



Town of Amherst
Special Council Meeting
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, December 10, 2024**
Time: **12:00 pm**
Location: **Council Chambers, Town Hall**

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

“I would like to acknowledge that our gathering today is taking place in (MEEG-MA-GEE), the traditional, unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaw people. I would also like to acknowledge that Nova Scotia has another unique people. These are the Indigenous Blacks of Nova Scotia whose legacy and contributions date back over 400 years predating confederation of this land. We are all treaty people.”

2. REQUEST FOR DECISION

2.1 Fireworks - MacDonald

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3. CLOSED SESSION

3.1 MGA 22(2)(e) - contract negotiations

4. ADJOURNMENT



REQUEST FOR DECISION

RFD# 2024096

Date: December 10, 2024

TO: Mayor Small and Members of Council

SUBMITTED BY: Jason MacDonald, CAO

DATE: December 10, 2024

SUBJECT: New Year's Eve Fireworks

ORIGIN: Motion of Council at the November 25, 2024 regular meeting:

That Council direct staff to investigate if ordering and using fireworks to celebrate New Year's Eve is still a viable option.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: MGA 47 (2) The council may exercise any of its powers and duties by resolution unless a policy or a by-law is required by an enactment.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council make a decision as to whether or not they would like to have fireworks as part of the New Year's Eve celebrations.

BACKGROUND: At the September 18, 2023 regular meeting, Council passed a motion that Council discontinue the use of fireworks and seek out alternate sources of celebration.

DISCUSSION: At the regular meeting of Council on November 25, 2024 Council passed a motion that Council direct staff to investigate if ordering and using fireworks to celebrate New Year's Eve was still a viable option.

Staff have been in contact with Fireworks FX and as of December 4th they are available if Council would like to have fireworks on New Year's Eve. However, if the company receives a booking in the meantime, they will not be available.

As previously discussed, Community Living staff are planning a small early afternoon event at the stadium, including ice skating and hot chocolate. Fireworks, if they are approved and still available, would follow this family event.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Fireworks FX have indicated that the cost of fireworks for New Year's Eve celebrations would be between \$7,000 and \$10,000. The cost of this can be accommodated in the Community Support Area Rate special events budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: No community engagement at this point. Should Council decide they do want to have fireworks, this will be communicated to our residents via social media.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS: None anticipated.



SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS: The effects of fireworks can trigger anxiety, panic attacks or a flashback scenario for combat veterans who suffer with PTSD. They can also negatively impact other people with certain underlying mental health or cognitive issues.

Increased communication of the planned use of the fireworks at this event may help those impacted to adequately plan for the event.

ALTERNATIVES: Direct staff not to book the fireworks.

ATTACHMENTS: None

Report prepared by: Jason MacDonald, CAO

Report and Financial approved by: