



DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2026
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Attorney
SUBJECT: Chapter 6, Article 4, Fireworks Code Updates

Background:

The City's current fireworks ordinance contains vague and ambiguous language regarding the permitted dates and times for the sale and detonation of fireworks. The lack of clearly defined start and end dates, as well as specific daily time limitations, has resulted in confusion among residents and retailers.

City staff have received multiple inquiries from residents seeking clarification on when fireworks may legally be sold and discharged. Due to the ordinance's imprecise wording, staff have been unable to provide definitive guidance in some instances.

Additionally, the ambiguity in the ordinance has hindered enforcement efforts. Without clearly established parameters, enforcement personnel face challenges in determining when violations occur, which limits the City's ability to issue citations or ensure compliance. This exposes the City to potential legal challenges based on lack of clarity and insufficient notice.

For these reasons, staff recommends amending the ordinance to include specific and clearly defined dates and times for both sales and detonation. Clarifying these provisions will improve public understanding, enhance enforceability, and ensure consistent application of the regulations.

Discussion:

At the 03/03rd Council Meeting, multiple updates to the Code were discussed. They included;

6.4.5 Public display of fireworks; permit required

- G. Fireworks displays shall conclude no later than 10:00 p.m. on each day from June 27 through July 3, and no later than 11:00 p.m. on July 4.
- J. Any permit authorizing a public display of fireworks shall require the permittee to remove all trash and debris from the property associated with the display, including debris generated by the display itself and by attendees. For fireworks detonated from June 27 through July 3, all trash and debris must be removed the same night, no later than 11:00 p.m. For fireworks detonated on July 4, all trash and debris must be removed the same night, no later than 11:59 p.m.

6.4.6 Location inspection

- Prior to issuance of a permit, an inspection shall be conducted of the applicant's facility and of each specific area where fireworks are to be sold or displayed to ensure compliance with this Ordinance and other applicable laws. No permit shall be issued for any premises or area not in compliance with such laws. Each location where fireworks are to be sold or displayed shall be inspected by, and subject to the standards imposed by, the Sedgwick County Fire Marshal. A permit may be issued only upon proof that the premises and designated display or sales areas have passed the required inspection by the Sedgwick County Fire Marshal.

6.4.16 Sales Times:

- June 27-July 3: 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- July 4: 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.

6.4.17 Detonation Times:

- June 27-July 3: 9:00 am until 10:00pm.
- July 4: 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.
- Any adult granting permission to detonate fireworks shall remove all trash and debris from the front ard of the private residence, the premises, and all adjacent public right-of-way areas. For fireworks detonated from June 27 through July 3, all trash and debris must be removed the same night, no later than 11:00 p.m. For fireworks detonated on July 4, all trash and debris must be removed the same night, no later than 11:59 p.m.

6.4.18 Posting of Dates and Times for Detonations and Sales by Firework Vendors

- Each fireworks vendor shall display a 3 foot x 3 foot sign visible to the public. The sign shall notify all customers of the dates and times for fireworks detonations within the City. The sign may also provide notice of the dates and times for fireworks sales within the City.

Financial Considerations:

No financial data available at this time.

Legal Considerations:

The ordinance is approved as to form and requires a majority vote for approval

Recommendation/Actions:

It is recommended that City Council adopt the ordinance.

Attachments:

Ordinance