

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Jeff Swoboda, Police Chief
Kristy Volesky, Assistant Chief

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 090, 2025 Amending Section 9-23 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins Regarding the Use of Fireworks.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to present recommended changes to the Fort Collins City Code Section 9-23 to address enforcement for violations related to fireworks.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

A Council work session was conducted on April 22, 2025, outlining a phased approach to addressing updates to the municipal code related to traffic, fireworks and other sound-related issues in the City. Phase 1 focused on low effort to implement but high impact as it relates to education and enforcement and Phase 2 will focus on amplified noise, requiring further research and community outreach.

Phase 1: Police Services – Fireworks

Fort Collins Police Services (FCPS) staff continue to receive numerous reports from community members regarding noise occurrences throughout the City. These reports span a variety of sources, including fireworks. In response, police staff have reviewed areas for consideration and potential updates were identified and presented to Council at the April 22 work session.

The update related to fireworks code includes amending City Code Section 9-23 to enable police staff to address and hold the person(s) that have a possessory interest in a location accountable for illegal fireworks being used. The current ordinance presents limitations in enforcement, often requiring police to identify the specific person who ignited the fireworks. This approach can present challenges identifying the specific person responsible when police respond to calls for service after the fireworks have already been used. The updated Code language would help improve accountability and support more effective regulation of fireworks within City limits. Specifically, the ordinance will allow an owner, occupant, tenant or person otherwise having any possessory control of any private place where fireworks are being used to be held accountable if they are present when fireworks are being used at that location. Exceptions still exist, including permitted events which meet the requirements of the International Fire Code and City Code.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Presentation
2. Ordinance No. 090, 2025