



**OELWEIN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF OELWEIN, IOWA  
MEMORANDUM**

**FROM:** Jeremy P. Logan, Chief of Police

**DATE:** June 4, 2025

**TO:** City Administrator Dylan Mulfinger

**SUBJECT:** Fireworks Ordinance Considerations

The State of Iowa has enacted a new law in 2025 expanding the legal time-frame and conditions under which individuals may use consumer fireworks within city limits. In order to ensure the City of Oelwein remains compliant with state law, while continuing to uphold reasonable public safety standards, this memorandum recommends a formal amendment to Chapter 23, Article VII – Fireworks of the Oelwein Municipal Code.

**CURRENT ORDINANCE**

The current Oelwein Code of Ordinances restricts the use of fireworks within city limits and requires permits for both the sale and display of fireworks, under the following sections:

Sec. 23-85. – Fireworks – Sale and Use Prohibited.

Sec. 23-86. – Exceptions – Display and Sales Permits.

These provisions currently prohibit personal use of fireworks and are more restrictive than the newly adopted state law.

**STATE LAW UPDATE (2025)**

Effective July 1, 2025, the revised Iowa Code Chapter 727.2 allows for:

Use of Consumer Fireworks by individuals without a local permit, during:

July 3rd between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. (unless July 3 falls on a Saturday or Sunday immediately preceding July 4, in which case fireworks may be used until 11 pm)

July 4th between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

New Years Eve between 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. (New Year's Day)

Municipalities may still regulate the sale and public display of fireworks through local permitting.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

Amend Article VII – Fireworks, Chapter 23 of the Oelwein Code of Ordinances\*\* to read as follows (draft):

Sec. 23-85(8). – Use of Consumer Fireworks.

(A) The use of consumer fireworks, as defined by Iowa Code § 727.2, shall be permitted within the corporate limits of the City of Oelwein during the following time-frames:

(1) July 3rd between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. (unless July 3 falls on a Saturday or Sunday immediately preceding July 4, in which case fireworks may be used until 11 pm)

(2) July 4th between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

(3) December 31 through January 1, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. on January 1.

(b) The use of consumer fireworks outside of the permitted time-frames is prohibited, unless authorized under a valid display permit issued by the city.



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(c) Use of consumer fireworks on public property, including parks, streets, and sidewalks, is prohibited unless expressly authorized by the city.

(d) The City of Oelwein may prohibit the use of consumer fireworks, even on the authorized dates, if there is a risk to public safety.

(e) Violation of this section shall constitute a municipal infraction punishable as provided in Section 1-13 of this Code.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopting this amendment will align Oelwein's Code of Ordinances with the new 2025 state law, maintain local control over public safety and nuisance concerns, and preserve the city's authority over commercial sale and organized fireworks displays.

Please consider advancing this item for formal introduction and approval at the next scheduled council meeting.