

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MAY 29, 2006

FIREWORKS & PYROTECHNICS SPECIAL EFFECTS PERMIT FEES

RECOMMENDATION

The Acting Fire Chief recommends:

1. That this report be received;
2. That Council enact a By-law to amend the City's Fees and Charges By-law No. 396-2002, at Schedule "E" – Vaughan Fire and Rescue Services, to include the amount of permit fees for the following classes of fireworks: Consumer Fireworks displays held on days other than Victoria Day and Canada Day (\$150.00), Display Fireworks held at any time (\$150.00), and Pyrotechnics Special Effects events held at any time (\$150.00).

Economic Impact

The revenue from fireworks permits was approximately \$1,200.00 in 2005. A marginal increase can be expected in 2006.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider the enactment of an amendment to the City of Vaughan Fees and Charges By-law No. 396-2002, as amended, to transfer the permit fees for Display Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Special Effects events from the former By-law No. 369-2004 to Schedule "E" of the City's Fees and Charges By-law, being the Schedule of Fees for Vaughan Fire & Rescue Service.

Background - Analysis and Options

On May 8, 2006 Council enacted a Fireworks and Pyrotechnics By-law in place of the former Display and Theatrical Fireworks By-law No. 369-2004 and directed that staff provide required notice of a public meeting in accordance with the City's Notice By-law No. 394-2002 and O.Reg 244/02, for the purpose of receiving any input from the public on the proposed amendment to the Fees and Charges By-law (See Attachment No. 1).

The new Fireworks and Pyrotechnics By-law enacted by Council included prohibitions and additional regulations of different classes of fireworks and pyrotechnics including:

- The setting off of Consumer Fireworks *without a permit* is only permitted on Canada Day and Victoria Day.
- The setting off of Consumer Fireworks is permitted at other times during the year only with a permit issued by the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service.
- In addition, new safety requirements were imposed for the setting off of Consumer Fireworks.
- The setting off of Display Fireworks continues to require a permit with stringent conditions, as does the setting off of Pyrotechnics Special Effects under new sections in the by-law.

The permit fee of \$150.00 in the same amount as formerly charged for Display Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Special Effects (previously known as Theatrical Fireworks), is proposed to be transferred to the City's consolidated Fees and Charges By-law No. 396-2002, at Schedule "E" – Vaughan Fire and Rescue Services Fees. A new permit fee of \$150.00 is proposed for displays of Consumer Fireworks, if they are held at any time other than on Victoria Day or Canada Day.

The permit fees revenue will remain low and it is estimated will not exceed the costs of administration, inspections and enforcement of the permit system.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report complies with Vaughan Vision 2007 – A-2, Promote Community Safety, Health & Wellness.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

It is appropriate that the fees for permits for Display Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Special Effects remain at present in the sum of \$150.00 and that a permit fee in the same amount be added for Consumer Fireworks displays held on days other than Victoria Day or Canada Day in any year. Staff will continue over the next year to monitor the costs of the permit system and revenues from permit fees.

Attachments

1. Extract – Item 24, May 8, 2006 Council Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

G. R. Senay
Acting Fire Chief

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2006

Item 24, Report No. 25, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 8, 2006.

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NEW FIREWORKS BY-LAW

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Acting Fire Chief, dated May 1, 2006, be approved; and
- 2) That the following be approved, in accordance with the memorandum from the Solicitor/Special Services, dated May 1, 2006:

“Amending the recommendations contained in the Fireworks By-law Report to add recommendation 3 as follows:

3. That Council enact a By-law to amend the City’s Fees and Charges By-law, By-law Number 396-2002, at Schedule “E” – Fire and Rescue Services, to add the permit fees for different classes of Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Special Effects at the end of Schedule “E” to the Fees and Charges By-law, and that, prior to the proposed By-law to amend the City’s Fees and Charges By-law being brought before Council, staff be directed to provide required notice of a public meeting in accordance with the City’s Notice By-law, By-law Number 394-2002, for the purpose of receiving any input from the public on the proposed amendment to the Fees and Charges By-law”.

Recommendation

The Acting Fire Chief, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services and Solicitor/Special Services, recommends:

1. That this report be received; and
2. That Council enact a by-law regulating the possession, use and setting off of consumer fireworks, display fireworks, and pyrotechnics special effects.

Economic Impact

The revenue from fire works related permits was approximately \$ 1200.00 in 2005, and a marginal increase can be expected in 2006 given the addition of pyrotechnics.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider the enactment of a Fireworks By-law dealing with the regulation of the possession, use and setting off of Fireworks within the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

In 1998, Council passed By-law Number 124-98 to regulate the sale and setting off of fireworks. This by-law was used by the licensing department to regulate and license the sale of fireworks, and by the fire service and enforcement services to control the setting off of fireworks. In 2004, Council passed By-law Number 369-2004 to separate out regulation of the sale, possession and setting off of Display Fireworks and Theatrical Fireworks, leaving the regulation of the sale of Consumer Fireworks in the Licensing By-law, By-law Number 2-2001.

Council passed the Licensing By-law, 2006, By-law Number 315-2005 in 2005, that established requirements only related to obtaining a licence for the sale of consumer fireworks. This by-law repealed By-law Number 369-2004, on the basis that staff would be bringing forward a revised by-law dealing specifically and only with regulating the possession, use and setting off of consumer fireworks, display fireworks and pyrotechnic special effects, including the circumstances where a permit would be required and the implementation of changes to address outstanding safety issues.

Some of the highlights of the new Fireworks By-law include:

- Fire Crackers and nuisance fireworks are prohibited.
- The setting off of consumer fireworks *without a permit* is only permitted on Canada Day and Victoria Day.
- The setting off of consumer fireworks is permitted at other times during the year only with a permit issued by the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service.
- New restrictions with respect to distances from certain facilities.
- New restrictions with respect to bothering or endangering neighbours.
- New safety requirements for the setting off of consumer fireworks.
- The setting off of display fireworks still requires a permit with stringent conditions.
- A completely new section of the by-law covers the use of pyrotechnic special effects. This is in response to public complaints of unlicensed persons using pyrotechnic special effects in unsafe ways at functions in banquet halls, etc.
- The permit fees (\$150.00) are transferred to Schedule E of the City's Fees and Charges By-law.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report complies with Vaughan Vision 2007 – A-2, Promote Community Safety, Health & Wellness.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

In order to properly regulate the possession, use and setting off of consumer fireworks, display fireworks and pyrotechnic special effects within the City of Vaughan, Council should enact a new by-law.

Attachments

None