



**RIDGEFIELD CITY COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, May 21, 2026
RACC - Columbia Assembly Room
510 Pioneer Street, Ridgefield, WA 98642**

- I. STUDY SESSION - 4:00 P.M.**
 - 1. Ridgefield Fireworks Regulation Review - Janean Parker, City Attorney**
- II. ADJOURN**

**CITY OF RIDGEFIELD
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

MEETING DATE: May 21, 2026

AGENDA ITEM NAME: Ridgefield Fireworks Regulation Review

GOVERNING LEGISLATION

RCW 70.77, State Fireworks Law

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN:

Council has adopted several ordinances addressing fireworks, codified in RMC 9.04.030

SUMMARY/BACKGROUND:

Council has requested a study session to review the current fireworks regulations to evaluate whether the regulations in Ridgefield need updated. Fireworks are regulated under RCW 70.77 and any regulation adopted by the City that is more restrictive than the State fireworks law cannot have an effective date less than one year after the date of adoption. The City has previously restricted the times for sale and discharge of consumer fireworks, but has not further restricted those consumer fireworks that can be sold or discharged within the City. Camas and Washougal have recently restricted further which types of consumer fireworks may be sold and discharged in those cities.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

There is no significant budget or financial impact.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR MOTION:

None

STAFF CONTACT: Janean Parker, City Attorney

ATTACHMENTS:

1. RCAF re Fireworks Study Session
2. Fireworks Regulation Study Session 5-16-26 JP

Exhibit 1

9.04.030 Fireworks.

A. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to implement and supplement the state fireworks law, Chapter 70.77 RCW. The provisions of this chapter shall be construed and applied in accordance with the definitions, requirements and prohibitions of state law and all rules and regulations issued by the Chief of the Washington State Patrol.

B. Definitions.

"Consumer fireworks" means any small firework device designed to produce visible effects by combustion and which must comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling requirements of the United States consumer product safety commission, as set forth in 16 C.F.R. Parts 1500 and 1507 and including some small devices designed to produce audible effects, such as whistling devices, ground devices containing fifty mg or less of explosive materials, and aerial devices containing one hundred thirty mg or less of explosive materials and classified as fireworks UN0336 by the United States department of transportation at 49 C.F.R. Sec 172.101 as of June 13, 2002, and not including fused setpieces containing components which together exceed fifty mg of salute powder.

"Display fireworks" means large fireworks designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion, deflagration, or detonation and includes but is not limited to, salutes containing more than two grains (one hundred thirty mg) or explosive materials, aerial shells containing more than forty grams of pyrotechnic compositions, and other display pieces which exceed the limit of explosive materials for classification as "consumer fireworks" and are classified as fireworks UN0333, UN0334, or UN0335 by the United States department of transportation at 49 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Sec 172.101 as of June 13, 2002 and including fused setpieces containing components which exceed fifty mg of salute powder.

"Fireworks" means any composition or device designed to produce a visible or audible effect by combustion, deflagration, or detonation, and which meets the definition or articles pyrotechnic or consumer fireworks or display fireworks.

"License" means a non-transferable formal authorization which the chief of the Washington State Patrol, through the director of fire protection, is authorized to issue under this section to allow a person to engage in the act specifically designated therein.

"Licensee" means any person issued a fireworks license in conformance with this section.

"Local fire official" means the chief of Clark County Fire District No. 12 or a chief fire protection officer or such other person as may be designated by the governing body of the city to act as a local fire official under this section.

"Permit" means the official authorization granted by the city for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place within the jurisdiction of the city where fireworks are sold.

"Permittee" means any person issued a fireworks permit in conformance with this section.

"Person" includes any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, concern, corporation, or any other group or combination acting as a unit.

"Public display of fireworks" means an entertainment feature where the public is or could be admitted or allowed to view the display or discharge of display fireworks.

"Retailer" means and includes any person who, at a fixed location or place of business, offers for sale, sells or exchanges for consideration fireworks to a consumer or user.

"Temporary storage" means the storage of consumer fireworks during the periods allowed for sale in this section.

C. Prohibited Acts. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person, without appropriate state license and city permit as required by this section may:

1. Manufacture, import, possess, or sell any fireworks at wholesale or retail for any use;
 2. Make a public display of fireworks;
 3. Transport fireworks, except as a licensee or as a public carrier delivering to a licensee;
 4. Knowingly manufacture, import, transport, store, sell or possess with intent to sell, as fireworks, explosives, as defined in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 70.74.010, that are not fireworks, as defined by this section;
 5. No person less than eighteen years of age may apply for or receive a permit; or
 6. No license or permit is required for the possession or use of consumer fireworks lawfully purchased at retail.
- D. Sale of Consumer Fireworks. It is legal to sell and purchase consumer fireworks within the city limits from twelve o'clock noon to eleven p.m. on July 1st, from nine a.m. to eleven p.m., and on each day from July 2nd through July 4. Each retail fireworks stand shall provide signage indicating the dates and times fireworks may be legally discharged in the City of Ridgefield. Such signage must be placed where it is easily readable by the public where the sales transactions occur.
- E. License to Sell. It is unlawful for any firm, corporation, or person to sell, trade or offer to sell, trade or exchange fireworks, firecrackers or other combustible substances, explosives or Fourth of July fireworks unless the same are declared safe by the state of Washington department governing fireworks and unless a permit is first obtained from the city of Ridgefield. Except that, no license is required for the purchase of agricultural and wildlife fireworks as outlined in RCW 70.77.311.
1. A permit to sell fireworks shall only be issued to service clubs or charitable organizations located in or benefiting the residents of the city of Ridgefield. Only one permit shall be issued to each organization and no permit shall entitle the holder to more than one location. All permits are nontransferable and shall expire at the end of the calendar year in which they are issued.
 2. The application period for fireworks sales is January 1 through 5:00 p.m. on May 31 for that year's sales. The application must be on the form provided by the city and signed by the applicant.
 3. Requirements for approval of a permit include but are not limited to:
 - The applicant shall have a valid license issued by the state of Washington authorizing the holder to engage in the retail sale of fireworks.
 - Neither the applicant nor the responsible party for the permit shall have been convicted of a felony unless the conviction was discharged pursuant to RCW 9.94A.637 or 13.50.050; or a fire/fireworks-related misdemeanor within the last three years.
 - The applicant shall procure an insurance policy or policies prior to the issuance of a permit and shall maintain the policy for the duration of the sales. The policy shall insure against claims for injuries to persons and damage to property which may arise from or in connection with operations or activities performed by or on the applicant's behalf with the issuance of the permit in the minimum amount of one million-dollar single limit and the city of Ridgefield shall be named as an additional insured.
 - The applicant's location or place of business shall be only in those areas or zones within the city wherein commercial or industrial activities are authorized under the applicable zoning laws of the city; provided, that no fireworks shall be sold in any residential area where a commercial enterprise does not exist.
 - The applicant must meet any additional requirements outlined in RCW 70.77.
 4. Applicants for renewal of permits shall be given preference over first time and other applicants.

- 5. The number of retail sale permits shall be limited to one permit total, or one permit per every ten thousand people living in Ridgefield city limits as determined by the most current OFM population estimate, whichever is greater.
- F. Discharge of Consumer Fireworks. Consumer fireworks may be used or discharged from nine a.m. to twelve o'clock midnight on July 4th. The fire marshal, in consultation with the city manager, may suspend or ban the discharge of fireworks or common fireworks upon consideration of current moisture levels, wind speeds, lack of rain, and other fire related factors.
- G. Public Display of Fireworks. A special event permit or written agreement with the city is required for the public display of fireworks. The permittee shall be required to comply with all applicable state and local fireworks laws and shall obtain all permits and/or licenses required by the state of Washington.
- H. Violations.

| Violation | Description | Non-Traffic Infraction | | |
|---|--|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| | | First Violation | Second Violation | Subsequent Violations |
| Discharge of Legal Consumer Fireworks Outside of Permissible Time (RCW 70.77.136) | Discharge of consumer fireworks outside of the legally permitted times established as from nine a.m. to twelve o'clock midnight on July 4 th , or any other time designated by the fire marshal, in consultation with the city manager. | \$100 | \$250 | \$500 |
| Discharge of Illegal Fireworks (RCW 70.77.401) | Discharge of illegal fireworks at any time. | \$250 | \$500 | \$1,000 |

- I. Unlawful Possession of Fireworks—Penalties. It is unlawful to possess any class or kind of fireworks in violation of this section. A violation of this section is:
 - 1. A misdemeanor if involving less than one pound of fireworks, exclusive of external packaging; or
 - 2. A gross misdemeanor if involving one pound or more of fireworks, exclusive of external packaging. For the purposes of this section, "external packaging" means any materials that are not an integral part of the operative unit of fireworks.
- J. Unlawful Discharge or Use of Fireworks—Penalty. It is unlawful for any person to discharge or use fireworks in a reckless manner which creates a substantial risk of death or serious physical injury to another person or damage of the property of another. A violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor.
- K. Unlawful Sale of Fireworks. It is unlawful for any person to sell or transfer any common fireworks to a consumer or a user other than at a fixed place of business of a retailer for which a license and permit have been issued or to sell fireworks to any person under the age of sixteen. A violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor.

- L. Penalty. Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person violating any provision of this section or any rules issued thereunder is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction of permittee any permit issued under this chapter shall be revoked.

(Ord. 963 § 1, 2007; Ord. 760 § 2, 2000; Ord. 495 § 1 (part), 1987).

(Ord. No. 1250, § 2(Exh. A), 11-16-2017; Ord. No. 1264, § 2(Exh. A), 6-21-2018; Ord. No. 1296, § 2(Exh. A), 10-10-2019; Ord. No. 1321, § 2(Exh. A), 9-24-2020)



Fireworks Regulation Review

State Law

RCW 70.77.250(4)

“...Any ordinances adopted by a county or city that are more restrictive than state law shall have an effective date **no sooner than one year after adoption.**”

RCW 70.77.401

“No fireworks may be sold or offered for sale to the public as consumer fireworks which are classified as **sky rockets, or missile-type rockets, firecrackers, salutes, or chasers** as defined by the United States department of transportation and the federal consumer products safety commission except as provided in RCW 70.77.311.”



FIREWORK AND EXPLOSIVE DEVICES THAT ARE ILLEGAL IN WASHINGTON STATE

Federally Legal Consumer Fireworks: These items are legal to purchase, possess, and discharge only at an Indian Reservation. Possession and/or use off the reservation is illegal.

Firecrackers

Generally 1/4" x 1 1/2" or less that come in packs to large bricks. A firecracker makes a single "pop" sound. Many firecrackers strung together will make repetitive "popping" sounds.



Sky Rockets and Missiles

Similar to the Bottle Rocket, a Sky Rocket is attached to a stick or has fins and may have a plastic cap. A missile will have fins rather than a stick. Once lit, it ascends rapidly, high into the air where it explodes.



Bottle Rockets

A firecracker type (tube) attached to a 12" long wooden stick. The stick is placed in a bottle and once lit, it rises into the air, travelling laterally before exploding.



Consumer Fireworks

"Consumer fireworks" means any small firework device designed to produce visible effects by combustion and which must comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations of the United States consumer product safety commission, as set forth in 16 C.F.R. Parts 1500 and 1507 and including some small devices designed to produce audible effects, such as whistling devices, ground devices containing 50 mg or less of explosive materials, and aerial devices containing 130 mg or less of explosive materials and classified as fireworks UN0336 by the United States department of transportation at 49 C.F.R. Sec. 172.101 as of June 13, 2002, and not including fused setpieces containing components which together exceed 50 mg of salute powder.



Cylindrical Fountain

Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks, and sometimes a whistling effect, is produced.



Roman Candles

Heavy paper or cardboard tube containing pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition, up to ten "stars" are individually expelled at several-second intervals.



Ground Spinners

A small device similar to a wheel in design and effect. When placed on the ground and ignited, a shower of sparks and color is produced by the rapidly spinning device.



Helicopters, Aerial Spinners

A propeller or blade is attached, which, upon ignition, lifts the rapidly spinning device into the air. A visible or audible effect is produced at the height of flight.



Parachutes

Upon ignition, one or more parachutes are propelled into the air with stars, smoke, and other effects being discharged as the parachute floats downward.



Reloadable Mortars

A shell consisting of a container, a lift charge, a time fuse, a burst charge, and stars/effects. The lift charge propels the shell out of the tube igniting the burst charge at the right altitude, igniting the effects.



Cone Fountain

Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks, and sometimes a whistling effect, is produced.



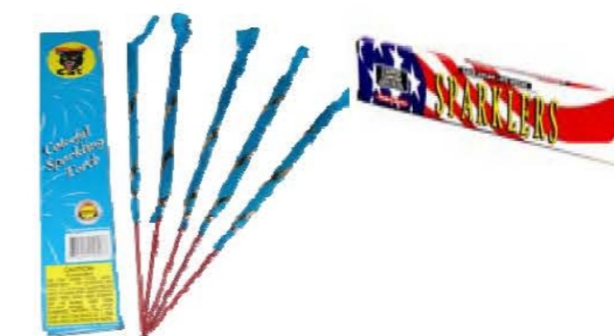
Wheels

Pyrotechnic device attached to a post or tree by means of a nail or string. A wheel may contain up to six "driver" units; upon ignition, the wheel revolves, producing a shower of color and sparks and, sometimes, a whistling effect.



Dipped Stick, Sparkler

Stick or wire coated with pyrotechnic composition that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition. Total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed 100 grams per item.



Smoke Devices

Tube or sphere containing pyrotechnic composition that, upon ignition, produces a white or colored smoke as a primary effect.



Mine/Shells/Cakes

Mine – An aerial device that shoots stars into the sky in an upward spray pattern. Shell – A shell is an aerial item that is fired into the sky. Cake – Dense-packed collection of mine/shell tubes that are fused together.



Novelties

"Trick and Novelty Devices" means any small firework device not classified as a Consumer of Display Firework. Items contain a small amount of pyrotechnic composition that is friction sensitive.



** Pictures shown are for illustrative purposes only and are not an endorsement of any brand or style of consumer firework.

3000-420-039 (R 5/12)



FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU – PREVENTION DIVISION
(360) 596-3946 FAX: (360) 596-3934
E-Mail: Fireworks@wsp.wa.gov



Local Discharge Regulation

| Jurisdiction | Allowed | Jn 28 | Jn 29 | Jn 30 | Jly 1 | Jly 2 | Jly 3 | Jly 4 | Jly5 | Dec31 |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Washington | Consumer | Noon-11pm | 9am- 11pm | 9am- 11pm | 9am- 11pm | 9am- 11pm | 9am- 11pm | 9am- midnight | 9am- 11pm | 6am- 1am |
| Clark County | Consumer | | | | | | | 9am- midnight | | 6am- 1am |
| Battle Ground | Consumer | | | | | | 9aam- 11pm | 9am- midnight | | 6am- 1am |
| Camas | No Shell Kit-Reload Tube | | | | | | | 9am- midnight | | 6am- 1am |
| La Center | Consumer | | | | | | 9am- 10pm | 9am- midnight | | |
| Ridgefield | Consumer | | | | | | | 9am- midnight | | |
| Vancouver | NONE | None | | | | | | | | |
| Washougal | Safe&Sane | | | | | | | 9am- midnight | | 6am- 1am |
| Woodland | Consumer | | | | | | | 9am- midnight | | 6am- 1am |
| Yacolt | Consumer | | | | | | | 9am- midnight | | 6am- 1am |

Camas/Washougal

- **Washougal: 9.22.040 Safe and sane–Must CA S&S Seal**

Whether permitted by state law or not, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell, store, offer for sale, expose for sale, use, possess, fire or discharge firecrackers, salutes, chasers, skyrockets and missile-type rockets and **mortar-type fireworks, or those fireworks not specifically listed, that fly, explode, or travel more than one foot into the air or more than six feet on the ground** in the city, except as allowed by this chapter.

- **Camas: 8.58.020 No Aerial Shell Kit-Reloadable Tube**

The term "consumer fireworks" as use in Section 8.58.020 shall not include any possession, sale, purchase, or discharge of **aerial shell kit, reloadable tube** as the same is defined under Chapter 70.77 RCW or WAC 212-17.





City Regulations

- Allows “Consumer Fireworks” as defined by the State of Washington discharged without permit.

- Sale: Requires license; Currently more restrictive than state:
 - July 1: 12:00pm to 11:00 pm
 - July 2-4 9 am to 11 pm

- Discharge: from nine a.m. to twelve o'clock midnight on July 4th.

- Public Display-Larger fireworks, separate license.



Fireworks Related Calls for Service

| Calls | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| Police calls 7/1 to 7/4 | 22 | 6 | 7 |
| | | | |
| | | | |



Options

- ✓ No Change
- ✓ Fireworks Ban
- ✓ Limit Fireworks Types or Times
 - Camas or Washougal Style limitation
 - Other more tailored limitation



Thank You

The City of Ridgefield, Washington