

Tiffin City Council Work Session

City Council Work Session

September 02, 2025 06:00 pm



City of Tiffin, Iowa

City Council Work Session
Tiffin City Hall - Council Chambers

300 Railroad Street, Tiffin, Iowa 52340
www.tiffin-iowa.org

Mayor:	Tim Kasperek	City Administrator:	Doug Boldt
Council At Large:	Tim Orris – Mayor Pro-Tem	Asst. City Administrator:	Ashley Platz
Council At Large:	Al Havens	City Attorney:	Crystal Raiber
Council At Large:	Skylar Limkemann	City Clerk:	Abigail Hora
Council At Large:	Chris Olney	W/WW Superintendent:	Brett Mehmen
Council At Large:	Eric Schnedler	D. of Public Works:	Brian Detert
		Building Official:	Brian Shay
		Recreation Director:	Frank Haege
		Fire Chief:	Brad Hill
		City Engineer:	MSA Professional Services

- 1. Call to Order - 6:00 PM**
File: [Work Session Agenda](#)
- 2. A. Roll Call**
- 3. B. Agenda Additions/Agenda Approval**
- 4. C. Discussion and Review of Sand Volleyball Court in City Park**
- 5. D. Discussion and Review of Potential Changes to Fireworks Ordinance**
File: [Draft Ordinance](#)

6. **E. Questions from Council Members regarding items on the Regular City Council Agenda or Reports**
7. **F. Other Business**
8. **G. Adjournment**
File: [Notes for the Work Session](#)

City of Tiffin, Iowa

Meeting: Tiffin City Council Work Session
Place: Tiffin City Hall, 300 Railroad Street, Tiffin, Iowa 52340
Date/Time: September 2, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Web Page: www.tiffin-iowa.org
Posted: August 29, 2025 (website & front entry of City Hall)

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Draft Fireworks Ordinance

Section 1: Purpose

This ordinance is enacted to promote the health and safety of the community through regulation of the use of fireworks and ensuring responsible firework activity consistent with state and federal law.

Section 2: Authority

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority granted by Iowa Code §727.2 and consistent with the limitations imposed by Senate File 303 (2025).

Section 3: Definitions

- **Consumer Fireworks:** As defined in Iowa Code §727.2(1)(a), “consumer fireworks” include first-class consumer fireworks and second-class consumer fireworks as described in American Pyrotechnics Association Standard 87-1, Chapter 3. *Consumer fireworks* are intended for retail sale to the public for personal use.
 - Examples include: novelties, firecrackers, chasers, roman candles, bottle rockets, fountains, mine and shell devices containing less than 60g of total chemical composition, and multiple tube devices with <200 grams of total pyrotechnic composition and individual tubes ≤1.75 inches in diameter.
- **Display Fireworks:** As defined in Iowa Code §727.2(1)(b) and federal law (27 CFR §555), “display fireworks” includes any explosive composition, or combination of explosive substances, or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, and includes fireworks containing any explosive or flammable compound, or other device containing any explosive substance.
 - Examples include: large fireworks used in shows, generally under the supervision of a trained pyrotechnician. Specifically, larger-scale aerial shells or pyrotechnic devices with >200 grams of explosive composition or exceeding 1.75 inches in shell diameter, containing salutes, which create bright flashes of light and/or loud reports.
- **Wildlife Protection Zone:** Any area within 200 feet of a natural water body, nesting habitat, forested area, or designated conservation zone.

Section 4: Prohibitions

- It shall be unlawful to sell display fireworks within the city limits.
- It shall be unlawful for a person to possess, use or explode display fireworks except in possession of and in compliance with all requirements of a permit issued by the City of Tiffin.
- It shall be unlawful for a person to use or explode consumer fireworks within the city limits, with the exception of the dates and times outlined in Section 5.

Section 5: Consumer Fireworks Use

In compliance with Iowa law, the use of consumer fireworks shall be permitted on the following dates and times:

- July 3: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- July 4: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- December 31: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. on January 1.

Consumer fireworks may only be used on private property with the express permission of the property owner or, where HOA common property is applicable, the Homeowners Association.

Section 5: Display Fireworks Permit Requirement

No person shall use, ignite, or possess display fireworks within the city limits without first obtaining a Display Fireworks Permit approved by the City Fire Marshal.

Permit applications must include:

- Copy of valid ATF fireworks license.
- Proof of liability insurance. Liability insurance must meet a \$2,000,000 minimum. Fire Chief or the City Council reserves the discretion to require a greater amount where applicable.
- Safety and emergency response plan.
- Detailed site map showing firing area, spectator area, and minimum 300-foot setback from buildings, trees, vehicles, and wildlife protection zones.
- Debris cleanup plan.

The City reserves the right to deny or revoke permits if the display poses a fire risk, endangers wildlife, or creates a public safety hazard.

Section 6: Enforcement and Penalties

- The fire chief or police department may seize, take, remove or cause to be removed at the expense of the owner, all stocks of fireworks offered or exposed for sale, used, stored, or held in violation of this ordinance.
- Violation of ordinance: Minimum fine of \$250 per occurrence.
- Violations may result in additional citations under nuisance, fire, or environmental codes.

Section 7: Severability

If any section or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other sections which can be given effect without the invalid provision.



**AGENDA INFORMATION
TIFFIN CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

DATE: August 29, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: City Manager's Notes for the Work Session

ACTION: None

ATTACHMENTS: Work Session Notes

CITY OF TIFFIN
CITY ADMINISTRATOR
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL – NOTES FOR WORK SESSION ITEMS
August 29, 2025

- I hope everyone had a chance to look at the three location options for the sand volleyball court. Like we mentioned at the last council meeting, all three locations would work and have individual advantages. One of the things to keep in mind as you are determining your decision is which location might best lend itself to being expanded if the need arises for an additional court sometime in the future.
- With the recent change to the fireworks law by the State Legislature, we should probably amend the City's code to resemble this change. We have had some community input on this topic and I've attached some of those comments. Sergeant Hynes and I have been working through this but wanted to get this information in front of the council to make sure we have the amendment passed before the next designated use for fireworks which would be New Year's Eve.