

AGENDA
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
RE: CHAPTER 608 - FIREWORKS ORDINANCE
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 - 6:15 P.M

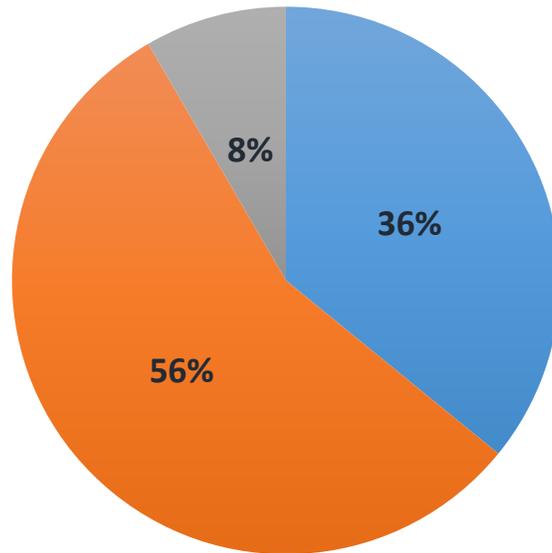
Item 1. Call to Order.

Item 2. Those Present.

Item 3. Discussion on Chapter 608 – the Town of Scarborough Fireworks Ordinance.

Item 4. Adjournment.

Do you agree with the current fireworks regulations?



■ Yes ■ No, wanting greater restrictions ■ No, wanting fewer restrictions

The above graph shows how the 978 responses to the fireworks survey released in July break down. 44% of total responses reflect satisfaction with the current ordinance or a desire for fewer restrictions on fireworks use. While 56% of respondents wanting greater restrictions is significant, the survey does not allow us to know if multiple responses were submitted by the same person. We may assume that both people for and against the ordinance would submit multiple responses but we do not have a way to know if people wishing for greater restrictions would be more likely to repeat the survey than those either satisfied with the current ordinance or wishing for fewer restrictions. This is one reason policy decisions based on the data gained from the survey may be ill advised.

The table below shows the results from question two. Respondents were allowed to select as many responses as they wished in question two but we have no way to determine which respondents selected which option. While we may imagine that those who would like to “further limit the number of days [fireworks] can be used” might also select “further limit the time of day [fireworks] can be used” we cannot be sure. This also complicates policy decisions based on the survey.

The percentages shown in the table below are meant to highlight the popularity of each option. Please note that though there may seem to be a high percentage of support for “limiting fireworks events to professionally run events” within those unhappy with the current ordinance, when taken as a percentage of total survey responses this option falls well below 50% support.

Question 2: Please select from the following list to indicate which changes to the regulations you would prefer:			
	Number of responses	Percentage of those responding no in question 1	Percentage of those responding to the survey
Further limit the number of days they can be used	178	28.4%	18.2%
Further limit the time of the day they can be used	216	34.4%	22.1%
Allow use in designated areas only	155	24.7%	15.8%
Prohibit the use town-wide	233	37.2%	23.8%
Limit fireworks events to professionally run events	371	59.2%	37.9%
Expand the time of day they can be used	18	2.9%	1.8%
Expand the number of days they can be used	64	10.2%	6.5%
Total	1286		
Please note that respondents to question 2 were allowed to choose more than one response.			

The survey results show that this is an issue of interest to residents of Scarborough but the results are inconclusive and should not be used as the base for any substantive policy changes. The high response rate suggests that surveys may be a good tool to engage the public in policy discussions and a follow-up survey on this issue may be able to provide greater clarity with some restructuring of format and questions.

State statute passed in 2012 made use of consumer fireworks legal unless prohibited or limited by ordinance within a municipality. The following table shows how nearby communities have dealt with the issue of consumer fireworks.

Complete Prohibition	Restricted Use
Buxton	Cumberland
Falmouth	Gorham
Freeport	Westbrook
Old Orchard Beach	
Portland	
Saco	
South Portland	
Yarmouth	

Should Council wish to modify our existing ordinance a useful resource can be found at the State Fire Marshall's website. It features a comprehensive database listing municipalities in Maine that have passed fireworks ordinances with links to each ordinance.