

City Council Item

June 22, 2026



Item	Ordinance XXX: Permitted Burning Code Amendment	
File No.		Item No: G.1
Agenda Section	<u>GENERAL BUSINESS</u>	
Prepared By	Andrew Heger, Fire Chief	
Reviewed By		

<u>SUGGESTED ACTION</u>	
"The Chanhassen City Council adopts an ordinance approving modifications to Chapter 9 of City Code regarding permitted burning."	
Motion Type	4/5 Vote
Strategic Priority	Operational Excellence

SUMMARY

The City Council previously reviewed proposed modifications to Chapter 9 of the City Code related to permitted burns. These amendments were presented on December 15, 2025, but were tabled following public and council feedback. The proposals were revisited during the City Council workshop on April 27, 2026. Based on the feedback received at that workshop, staff have developed an alternative amendment to the ordinance, in addition to the original ordinance language, for the City Council’s consideration.

BACKGROUND

Staff has developed two amendment options for the City Council’s consideration based on the feedback received. The first option reflects the original code language presented to the Council on December 15, 2025. The second option proposes reduced setback requirements from structures and roadways. Aside from the adjusted setbacks, the two options are identical. Although the current City Ordinance has always included a fee for burn permits, no such fee has ever been formally adopted within the city’s fee

schedule.

Staff's preference is the original code language presented in December, as it contains more stringent safety requirements and further minimizes potential impacts, particularly smoke travel, to neighboring properties and roadways. Burning complaints are a frequent issue addressed by fire department staff. The alternative code language found in option #2 will increase the likelihood of burning complaints from the community.

DISCUSSION

BUDGET

As previously stated, the city code requires applicants for burn permits to pay a nonrefundable fee, which is set by the City Council through the annually adopted fee schedule rather than being specified in the code itself. The introduction of both a short-term and long-term permit will give flexibility to applicants seeking a burn permit while also helping to cover the staff time necessary to process the permit.

If weather or burning restrictions impact the applicants desired dates for burning, staff will work with the applicant to extend the dates under the original permit.

The short-term burn permit fee is \$25, and the long-term burn permit fee is \$100. If the City Council adopts a desired option for an ordinance amendment, these fees will be reinstated as part of a revised fee schedule on July 13, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Chanhassen City Council adopt the preferred ordinance #1 approving modifications to Chapter 9 of City Code regarding permitted burning.

ATTACHMENTS

[Proposed Burning Ordinance #1](#)

[Proposed Burning Ordinance #2](#)