



City Council Agenda Item Summary Report

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Meeting Date: April 21, 2020 | | | |
| Submitted by: P. Morgan | | | |
| Consent | Discussion Only | Public Hearing | Action/Discussion X |
| Item Title: Discuss and consider approval of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances by adopting the 2018 Edition of the International Building Code. | | | |
| Attachments: Ordinance | | | |

Item Summary:

The City of Forney currently requires construction under the 2015 International Code Series, including the Fire Code, and the 2014 National Electrical Code. Staff has prepared the Ordinances to adopt the 2018 International Code Series, including the Fire Code, and the 2017 National Electrical Code. The amending ordinances include the following:

1. 2018 International Building Code
2. 2018 International Residential Code
3. 2018 International Existing Building Code
4. 2018 International Plumbing Code
5. 2018 International Mechanical Code
6. 2018 International Fuel Gas Code
7. 2018 International Fire Code
8. 2018 International Property Maintenance Code
9. 2018 International Energy Conservation Code
10. 2017 National Electrical Code

The codes are adopted together as a series since the codes are fully compatible with each other and provide many cross references. The purpose of the code series is to provide an international model code forum and to provide consistency across the region.

The main purpose of updating codes is to maintain up-to-date codes that address design and installation of building systems through requirements which emphasize performance and safety. In addition, updating the codes is an important factor in securing a higher rating with the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). ISO is an advisory organization which provides ratings for each City's building and fire departments. A higher rating may provide insurance benefits and cost savings for citizens. The City of Forney currently has earned the highest achievable fire rating and an above average building rating. Updated codes are necessary to maintain those ratings.

The Ordinance proposes to adopt the Codes with the inclusion of recommendations made by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). Since 1967, the NCTCOG has promoted the standardization of model construction codes in an effort to simplify the construction process, advance the safety of building systems, promote common code interpretation, and reduce training and construction costs. The recommendations are made by a committee comprising of local public and private code professionals. The City of Forney's current 2015 codes include previous NCTCOG recommendations.

2018 International Building Code:

The purpose of this specific item is to adopt the 2018 Edition of the International Building Code. The provisions of the code apply to the construction, alteration, relocation, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal, and demolition of every building or structure or any appurtenances connected or attached to such buildings or structures.

The International Code Council website provides the following list of key changes:

- Accessory storage spaces of any size are now permitted to be classified as part of the occupancy to which they are accessory.
- New code sections have been introduced addressing medical gas systems and higher education laboratories.
- Use of fire walls to create separate buildings is now limited to only the determination of permissible types of construction based on allowable building area and height.
- Where an elevator hoistway door opens into a fire-resistance-rated corridor, the opening must be protected in a manner to address smoke intrusion into the hoistway.
- The occupant load factor for business uses has been revised to one occupant per 150 square feet.
- Live loads on decks and balconies increase the deck live load to one and one-half times the live load of the area served.
- The minimum lateral load that fire walls are required to resist is five pounds per square foot.
- Wind speed maps have been updated. Terminology describing wind speeds has changed again with ultimate design wind speeds now called basic design wind speeds.
- Site soil coefficients now correspond to the newest generation of ground motion attenuation equations (seismic values).
- Five-foot tall wood trusses requiring permanent bracing must have a periodic special inspection to verify that the required bracing has been installed.
- New alternative fastener schedule for construction of mechanically laminated decking is added giving equivalent power-driven fasteners for the 20-penny nail.
- Solid sawn lumber header and girder spans for the exterior bearing walls reduce span lengths to allow #2 Southern Pine design values.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval, with an effective date of June 1, 2020. The Ordinance was drafted by the Community Development Director and the Chief Building Official. The City Attorney reviewed the Ordinance.