



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 Energy Conservation 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 Energy Conservation Code:

The purpose of this specific item is to adopt the 2018 Edition of the International Energy Conservation Code. The provisions of the code establish minimum standards to regulate the design and construction of buildings for the effective use and conservation of energy over the useful life of each building.

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

- Revisions to interior and exterior lighting power budgets and better clarity for lighting controls.
- Clarity that regardless of design methodology, system commissioning is required.
- New limits on heated or cooled vestibules.
- Mechanical provisions reorganized based on equipment type rather than design methodology.
- The maximum allowable fenestration *U*-factors in Table R402.1.2 (for the prescriptive compliance path) for climate zones 3 through 8 have been reduced from the values in the 2015 edition.
- The ICC/RESNET 380 standard has been included as one of standards that can be used for determining the air leakage rate of a building or dwelling unit.
- The Energy Rating Index compliance alternative index values have been increased slightly however, the method for determining an index is now required to be in accordance with standard ICC/RESNET 301.

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.