



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 Fire 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 Fire Code:

The purpose of this specific item is to adopt the 2018 Edition of the International Fire Code. The provisions of the code establish minimum standards consistent with nationally recognized good practice for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures and premises, and to provide a reasonable level of safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

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

- New provisions address hazards related to outdoor pallet storage, higher education laboratories, mobile food trucks and plant processing and extraction activities.
- Mass Notification Requirements for college and university buildings have been added to the code.
- Sprinkler protection is now required in existing Group A-2 occupancies having an occupant load of 300 or more where alcoholic beverages are consumed.
- A new chapter has been added to address issues related to Energy Systems.
- Integrated testing requirements for fire protection and life safety systems have been added for high rise buildings and smoke control systems.
- The requirements for gas detection systems have been revised throughout the code to be more reflective of industry practice.
- Required sprinkler protection of Group E occupancies has been expanded through the introduction of a new thresholds related to fire areas.
- Manual fire alarm systems in Group A occupancies are now required not only when the occupant load is 300 or more but also where the occupant load exceeds 100 above or below the lowest level of exit discharge.
- A manual fire alarm system and an automatic smoke detection system are no longer required in Group R-4 occupancies.
- New provisions require illumination for the exit discharge path of travel to the public way or to a safe dispersal area for all occupancies.
- Provisions have been added to address the hazards associated with outdoor assembly events, indoor trade shows and exhibitions.
- The fire watch requirements for construction and demolition activities have been enhanced.
- The provisions for the maintenance of fire and smoke protection features in Chapter 7 have been enhanced and reorganized.
- The applicability of the decorative materials requirements in Chapter 8 have been clarified.

Recommendation:

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