



City Council Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date: November 15, 2022			
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 2021 Edition of the International Mechanical Code.			
Attachments: Ordinance			

Item Summary:

The City of Forney currently requires construction under the 2018 International Code Series, including the Fire Code, and the 2017 National Electrical Code. Staff has prepared the Ordinances to adopt the 2021 International Code Series, including the Fire Code, and the 2020 National Electrical Code. The amending ordinances include the following:

1. 2021 International Building Code
2. 2021 International Residential Code
3. 2021 International Existing Building Code
4. 2021 International Plumbing Code
5. 2021 International Mechanical Code
6. 2021 International Fuel Gas Code
7. 2021 International Fire Code
8. 2021 International Property Maintenance Code
9. 2021 International Energy Conservation Code
10. 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code
11. 2020 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 2018 codes include previous NCTCOG recommendations.

2021 International Mechanical Code:

The purpose of this specific item is to adopt the 2021 Edition of the International Mechanical Code. The provisions of the code establish minimum standards to provide a reasonable level of safety, health, property protection and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, installation, quality of materials, location, operation and maintenance or use of mechanical systems.

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

- Clothes dryer exhaust terminals required to be at least 3 feet from any opening into a building.
- Polyurethane spray-applied foam on the exterior of ducts in attics and crawl spaces required to meet specific smoke and flame index limits.
- Fire and smoke dampers must be provided with approved access for inspection and maintenance.
- Refrigerant tables updated to include new refrigerants.
- Addition of condensate termination identification markings and discharge restrictions.
- Approved factory-built combination intake/exhaust terminations permitted, relaxing separation requirement.
- 30% reduction in minimum mechanical ventilation for whole-house balanced ventilation systems.
- Continuous operation requirement for manicure and pedicure station exhaust systems.
- Grease duct horizontal cleanout required within 3 feet of a horizontal discharge fan.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval, with an effective date of January 1, 2023.