

AGENDA ITEM #: _____

DATE: October 28, 2019

CAR #: 2019-6673



CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

SUBJECT: Amend Section 5-2-1 of the Goodyear City Code to Adopt the International Fire Code 2018 Edition and Amendments

STAFF PRESENTER(S): Randal Westacott, Chief Building Official

OTHER PRESENTER(S): None

Summary: Amend Section 5-2-1 of Goodyear City Code to provide for the adoption of the International Fire Code 2018 Edition as well as the related amendments.

Recommendation:

1. ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2019-1975 DECLARING AS PUBLIC RECORDS THOSE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS ENTITLED "INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE 2018 EDITION," AND "AMENDMENT TO INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE 2018 EDITION," FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK.
2. ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2019-1438 AMENDING SECTION 5-2-1 OF THE GOODYEAR CITY CODE BY ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE 2018 EDITION AND ADOPTING AMENDMENTS THERETO; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL AND PRESERVATION OF EXISTING RIGHTS; PROVIDING FOR CORRECTIONS OF SCRIVENERS ERRORS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact with the approval of this item.

Background and Previous Actions

On March 2, 2015, Council was briefed on the updated 2012 fire code. On July 1, 2015, as approved by Council, the 2012 International Fire Code became effective as the governing code for fire protection of the built environment for the City of Goodyear.

Staff Analysis

PURPOSE OF BUILDING AND FIRE CODES

Building and fire codes promote health, welfare and safety of our community by requiring that best practices are followed in the construction, alteration repair, use occupancy and maintenance of buildings and structures within the community. By adopting up-to-date building and fire

codes, the citizens, design professionals and builders can take advantage of current construction technologies, materials and methods and can benefit from updated building safety requirements such as exiting, structural issues and fire and life safety concerns. Moreover, consistency and uniformity of codes is important among the Valley and State jurisdictions because it makes it easier for designers and contractors who build in these cities, and allows for more consistent enforcement by Building Safety personnel. Conformance to the 2018 family of technical building and fire codes will allow for uniformity and consistency throughout the Valley.

The fire code regulates conditions hazardous to life, property or public welfare in the occupancy of structures and premises establishing regulations affecting or relating to structures, processes, premises and safeguards regarding the hazard of fire and explosion arising from storage, handling or use of structures, materials, or devices. Annual fire inspection of commercial occupancies in Goodyear raises awareness of fire code issues, thereby educating owners/occupants regarding fire protection in their businesses and protecting their customers. Follow up also ensures concerns noted are corrected toward continued compliance with the safeguards in the fire code.

EXISTING AND UPDATED CODES

The City's Fire Code was last updated on May 18, 2015. That last update was based upon the 2012 International Fire Code. It was adopted in conjunction with the other technical codes promulgated by the International Code Council and the National Fire Protection Association. When adopted together, these documents work in harmony and provide comprehensive code requirements for regulated buildings and structures.

The International Fire Code has been updated by the International Code Council. Staff is proposing the adoption of the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code because it includes improved standard code language encompassing technological and engineering advances as approved by the International Code Council (ICC) through the code development process and is correlated for consistency with other technical codes being presented to the Council for approval.

The proposed local amendments to the fire code are maintaining consistency with our currently adopted ordinance or improving as highlighted below:

1. The definition for “Fire Code Official” has been modified to provide clarification of duties for the Fire Code Official and the Fire Chief.
2. The current amendments for sprinkler requirements are being carried over to the 2018 code. This change is provided to maintain the standards currently adopted by the City of Goodyear.
3. Fire plan submittal for fire sprinkler and fire alarm installation drawings shall bear a minimum review Certification of a National Institute for Certification of Engineering Technologies (NICET) Level III in Fire Sprinkler and Fire Alarm Systems. This change

will maintain the current standard as a reasonable approach to the submittal process and reduce plan submittal cost for the customers.

4. In addition to the Fire Lane Signage as designated in the City of Goodyear Engineering Design Standards and Policies Manual, markings for fire apparatus access roads has been amended to provide an alternative to the Fire Code Official for identifying fire apparatus access roads with curb paints with signage.
5. Appendix “L” “Requirements for Firefighter Breathing Air Replenishment System” is being adopted. Staff is proposing that Firefighter Breathing Air Replenishment Systems be required in all new buildings and structures that meet any of the following: (i) building or structure with five (5) floors or more above grade; (ii) high rise buildings as defined by the International Building Code as adopted and amended by the governing authority; or (iii) underground buildings or structures or components thereof, totaling ten thousand (10,000) square feet or more that are either more than two (2) floors below grade or more than thirty (30) feet below grade.
6. Section 1206.2 Stationary storage battery systems has been modified to incorporate code language from the future 2021 code now to address the rapidly changing energy storage technology. There have already been lessons learned and best practices proposed to address this changing technology.
7. Improvements to Emergency Responder Radio Coverage systems has been incorporated into the code, offering more assurance the system will perform as needed in an emergency event. With the rapidly increasing volume of large structures in Goodyear these improvements enhance the safety of our community for responders and occupants.

Additional amendments included in the proposed code update either existed in the previous fire code, provide consistency with other codes adopted by the City, or clarify current code language. In addition, a penalty of double the permit fee is included if work commences before necessary permit(s) have been obtained.

Attachments

1. Resolution 2019-1975
 - a. The International Fire Code 2018 Edition (on file with City Clerk)
 - b. Amendment to International Fire Code 2018 Edition
2. Ordinance 2019-1438