



AGENDA MEMO

2/7/2017 Agenda

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Patrick Baugh, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Consider adoption of the 2015 Editions of the International Code Council construction codes and the NFPA National Electrical Code 2014 Edition

BACKGROUND:

The International Code Council (ICC) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) promulgate updated comprehensive and coordinated construction regulatory documents (codes) every three years. The most recent publication of these codes are the ICC 2015 Editions and NFPA 2014 Edition. The currently adopted City of University Park editions of these codes are the 2009 ICC and 2008 NFPA editions.

The Codes recommended for adoption include:

- International Building Code
- International Energy Conservation Code
- International Existing Building Code (*not currently adopted*)
- International Fire Code
- International Fuel Gas Code
- International Mechanical Code
- International Plumbing Code
- International Residential Code
- National Electrical Code

The NEC and ICC set of codes are the standard in the North Central Texas Council of Governments Metropolitan Planning Area. As such, construction project methods and materials are more consistent from one community to the next within our region. Local amendments to the codes are often reflective of tradition and community desires.

Often, municipal adoption of the NEC and ICC codes lag behind the most recent edition to allow a transition observation period, or sometimes because there is simply not enough difference to pursue the issue. In this latest edition, there are a few improvements to the codes that warrant adopting the updates. Storm shelter requirements for public schools and maintaining a beneficial Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating are two of the primary reasons to adopt the Building and Fire Codes. The remaining codes regulate the subsystems incorporated into the structures, and their adoption assure coordination and comprehensive compatibility with the Building and Fire Codes. The most significant Residential Code construction regulation is the requirement for houses to have an independent testing agency certify Energy Code compliance, representing an expense generally about \$2000 today.

A list of the key code changes, as identified by ICC and NFPA is attached. There is also a list of regional municipalities that have adopted, or are considering adoption of the codes. Because of the minor and limited changes between the editions, no transition period is necessary. It is worth mentioning that the State of Texas has already initiated requirements for houses to be built under the 2015 ICC codes including the energy efficiency testing program.

The Codes recommended for adoption include:

- International Building Code, 2015 Edition
- International Energy Conservation Code, 2015 Edition
- International Existing Building Code, 2015 Edition
- International Fire Code, 2015 Edition
- International Fuel Gas Code, 2015 Edition
- International Mechanical Code, 2015 Edition
- International Plumbing Code, 2015 Edition
- International Residential Code, 2015 Edition
- National Electrical Code, 2014 Edition

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of an ordinance adopting the referenced 2014 Edition of the National Electrical Code and the 2015 Editions of the International Code Council construction codes, with amendments.

Attachments:

- A- List of Cities adopting ICC codes
- B- ICC Major Changes
- C- NEC Major Changes
- D- Adopting Ordinance
- E- Amendments