

AGENDA REPORT

DATE March 1, 2005

ITEM: Ordinance 2905, Amending OCCGF 15.12 to adopt the 2003 edition of NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code

INITIATED BY: Fire Marshal Joe Le Lievre

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept ordinance 2905 on first reading and set the public hearing for April 5th 2005

PRESENTED BY: Fire Chief Randy McCamley

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Commission accept Ordinance 2905 on first reading and set the public hearing for April 5th 2005.

MOTION:

“I move the City Commission accept Ordinance 2905 on first reading and set the public hearing for April 5, 2005.”

SYNOPSIS: By state law, municipalities must adopt local fire codes that meet the minimum standard that the state has adopted. We are allowed to adopt stricter requirements at a local level, but can not be more lenient¹. Currently the state has adopted the 2003 edition of NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code.

BACKGROUND: The city of Great Falls has in the past kept up with the adoption of fire codes in coordination with the State of Montana. The fire codes are part of a family of codes that regulate safety issues from initial construction, through long term occupancy. The fire code is one of several codes either adopted separately or by reference from another adopted code. We are currently using the 2003 International Building Code; 2003 International Mechanical Code; 2002 National Electrical Code and several others. Essentially, a building is built with the applicable codes and maintained throughout it's lifespan by the fire code. As we can adopt stricter requirements on a local level, our adoption must have a public hearing, and can not be adopted administratively as the building code is. At this time, I am not proposing any additional local requirements and intend on adopting the code identical to the state adoption, as modified by the applicable Administrative Rules of Montana.

¹ Administrative Rules of Montana 23.7.301 (3)