

AGENDA REPORT

DATE February 19, 2008

**ITEM:** Ordinance 2998, Amending OCCGF 15.50 to adopt the 2006 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC)

**INITIATED BY:** Fire Marshal Doug Bennyhoff

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Accept Ordinance 2998 on first reading and set Public Hearing

**PRESENTED BY:** Fire Chief Randy McCamley

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the City Commission accept Ordinance 2998 on first reading and set public hearing for March 4, 2008.

**MOTION:**

“I move the City Commission accept Ordinance 2998 on first reading and set public hearing for March 4, 2008.”

**SYNOPSIS:**

Pursuant to § 7-33-4208, MCA, municipalities must adopt local fire codes that meet the minimum standard that the state has adopted. Municipalities are allowed to adopt more stringent fire code requirements at a local level, but can not be more lenient. Currently the state has adopted the 2003 edition of NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code.

**BACKGROUND:**

In the past, the City of Great Falls has maintained the fire code the State of Montana had adopted which has been, most recently, the NFPA1. The fire code is one of several codes either adopted separately or by reference from another adopted code. The City of Great Falls Building Department is currently using the 2006 International Building Code (IBC). Staff is recommending the adoption of the 2006 IFC as it is a companion code to the IBC and will create a seamless working relationship with the building officials and the City Fire Marshal’s office. Essentially, a building is built with the applicable building codes and governed throughout it’s lifespan by the fire code. The City can adopt more stringent requirements on a local level; however; our adoption must have a public hearing, and can not be adopted administratively as the building code is. At this time, staff is not proposing any additional local requirements and intends on adopting the 2006 IFC. It should be noted that the states surrounding Montana have all adopted the 2006 IFC at some level to regulate their fire maintenance issues. The City’s Fire Bureau has made many comparisons between the NFPA1 and the 2006 IFC.

- Of the ten (10) Codes which govern construction, Seven (7) are International Codes. The following is a list of those codes currently adopted in Great Falls:
  - International Building Code, 2006 edition
  - International Residential Code, 2006 edition
  - International Mechanical Code, 2006 edition
  - International Fuel Gas Code, 2006 edition
  - International Existing Building Code, 2006 edition
  - International Energy Conservation Code, 2006 edition
  - International Property Management Code, 2003 edition
  - Uniform Plumbing Code, 2006 edition
  - National Electrical Code, 2005 edition
  - NFPA1/UFC Fire Code, 2003 edition