

AGENDA REPORT

DATE March 4, 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: Conduct public hearing and adopt Ordinance 2998

PRESENTED BY: Fire Chief Randy McCamley

RECOMMENDATION:

After holding a public hearing, staff recommends the City Commission adopt Ordinance 2998.

MOTION:

“I move the City Commission adopt Ordinance 2998.”

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 cannot 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 its 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 cannot 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