



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 4.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF: AUGUST 13, 2018

DEPARTMENT: CITY ATTORNEY
DIRECTOR: BRADFORD R. JERBIC

Consent Discussion

SUBJECT:

Bill No. 2018-26 - ABEYANCE ITEM - possible action - Adopts as the City's Fire Code the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition together with local modifications and supplements thereto.
Proposed by: *Bob Adams*, City Manager

Fiscal Impact

- No Impact
- Budget Funds Available
- Augmentation Required

Amount:
Funding Source:
Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

This bill will adopt as the City's Fire Code the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition, together with local modifications and supplements thereto. The adoption is part of the City's effort to adopt local versions of all the major building and fire safety codes in their most recently published versions.

RECOMMENDATION:

Bill was held in abeyance to the August 13, 2018 Recommending Committee Meeting.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Bill No. 2018-26
2. Southern Nevada Consensus Fire Code Amendments
3. City's Supplemental Document
4. Submitted at Meeting - Supplemental Amendment Documentation

Motion made by MICHELE FIORE to Approve as Do Pass as a First Amendment

Passed For: 3; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0
BOB COFFIN, STAVROS S. ANTHONY, MICHELE FIORE; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

CHAIR ANTHONY declared the Public Hearing open for Items 4-12.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF ROBERT NOLAN, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue and City Fire Marshall, spoke in regard to Item 4. He explained that if this item passes, it will replace the 2012 IFC (International Fire Code) and 2012 Code Consensus Amendments with the 2018 IFC and Code

Consensus Amendments. He was able to report that they made additions to both the Fire Code Amendments and the Building Code while still retaining the 55-foot building level and achieving nearly the same degree of fire protection and life-safety features as those normally found in high-rise buildings. He reported that they collaborated with stakeholders from the professional fire service, building owner representatives, and construction and design professionals, and he appreciated the time and effort provided by the members of IAFF (International Association of Fire Fighters) Local 1285, particularly given the compressed time frame. He believed that it was imperative to adopt the Fire and Building Code by August 31, 2018, so that the City could take advantage of the ability to exempt themselves from the statutory requirements of the Nevada State Fire Marshal.

With respect to the high-rise provision, KEVIN McOSKER, Director of Building and Safety, thanked all of the stakeholders who invested their time and effort in reevaluating the code adoption. He stated that based on the results of the July 30, 2018, Recommending Committee meeting, staff formulated revised building and code amendments. These amendments will provide for an additional level of protection for both occupants and local fire suppression staff in buildings greater than 55 feet, as well as provide an opportunity to reevaluate the City's high-rise provision. The new proposal supports the national definition features in buildings greater than 55 feet, which is the old high-rise rule, and 75 feet, which is the new proposed definition. He reported that these measures are consistent with high-rise provisions and create a new set of requirements that go above and beyond those required at 55 feet in the national model building codes. Further, the codes are contained in Section 429 of the International Building Code and are specific to the City of Las Vegas. These measures include smoke detection, a voice and fire alarm communication system, fire command center, smoke proof enclosures, and emergency and standby power.

MR. McOSKER affirmed for COUNCILMAN ANTHONY that the Supplemental Amendment documentation for Items 4 and 5, which were submitted as backup, were the negotiations and amendments reached between the Professional Fire Fighters Association and the industry stakeholders. CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED clarified that all of the information contained in the backup for the International Building Code (IBC) would be included as changes, and that the yellow highlighted portions within the International Fire Code would be the portions added to the existing supplemental document that are parallel changes regarding the 55- to 75-foot levels.

TODD INGALSBEE, representing the Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada, thanked the Recommending Committee for agreeing to abey these items so that the people they affect the most could have an opportunity to provide input. MR. INGALSBEE stated that after speaking with firefighters, CHIEF NOLAN and MR. McOSKER, they are comfortable with endorsing the negotiated language and inclusions to the Fire Codes and IBC. He requested that firefighters be



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provided an opportunity to address concerns and provide input and suggest changes for any future changes that affect Las Vegas and Nevada firefighters either through a City Council policy or regulation.

In regard to Item 4, MR. INGALSBEER, representing Paragon Pools, expressed his support in passing this proposal as they feel the will ensure professionalism across the board for their industry.

COUNCILMAN COFFIN briefly discussed the MGM and Hilton fires, noting that hotels were unhappy about retrofitting. He voiced concern in that we did not want to see a one percent change in fire safety for high rises and needed to know that there would not be a change. MR. McOSKER explained that when the retrofit ordinance was put together in the 1980's, the codes were a lot different, and that the level of safety that is provided in the national model code has substantially increased over the past four decades. A discussion ensued between COUNCILMAN COFFIN and MR. McOSKER regarding whether or not the level of safety would be changed and EIFS (Exterior Insulated Finish System) was being addressed. MR. McOSKER noted that with respect to Building Code and Fire Code amendments, the City has close to 300 amendments, which makes Las Vegas Buildings and Fire Codes some of the most stringent in the country. He affirmed for COUNCILMAN COFFIN that it also covers the safety of EIFS and the Standards of Installation and Inspection; he provided an explanation of EIFS, noting that Exterior Insulated Finish System is regulated in the building codes and have protections built into them based on the height, size and type of building being proposed. He noted that there are no penalties in the Building Code for buildings or construction that are noncompliant; however, they need to make those corrections as part of the construction process, if discovered. COUNCILMAN COFFIN felt discovering them was essential. MR. McOSKER added that one of the issues they specifically looked at was the fire in London; as a result, they made significant modifications in the Building Codes relative to the Metal Composite Materials section, which he noted was foam over metal. He added that it is either limited in taller construction or must pass a very rigorous NFPA (Nevada Fire Protection Association) test in order for it to be applied to taller buildings. COUNCILMAN COFFIN wondered about residential installation, and MR. McOSKER stated that there are regulations in the code that address foam construction with a thermal barrier and the maximum thickness allowed by the code. MR. INGALSBEER confirmed that there is a change in the level of safety from what is currently in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS); however, they feel the negotiated changes will provide a level of safety for fire fighters and citizens that they are comfortable with. COUNCILMAN COFFIN requested that MR. INGALSBEER provide him written details as to what had been agreed upon, noting that he would support the motion, but with reservation until he could learn more.

CHAIR ANTHONY thanked everyone for working together to reach a resolution.

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See Item B for related discussion.

CHAIR AND ONLY declared the public hearing closed for Items 4-12.

