



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: September 22, 2022

In Control: Planning and Community Development Committee

DEPARTMENT: Development Services Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Michael Shannon

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Update to Chapter 10, Building-related Codes, and Chapter 11, Fire Prevention, by adopting the 2021 editions of the International Code Council (ICC) building-related and fire codes with local amendments.

SUMMARY:

The proposed ordinances below seek to update the various ICC family of codes currently adopted and enforced by the City of San Antonio to the more current 2021 editions and the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC), and corresponding local amendments:

An Ordinance amending Chapter 10 of the City Code of San Antonio, Texas, by adopting the 2021 editions of the International Building Code, the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings, the International Plumbing Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Energy Conservation Code, the International Existing Building Code, the International Fuel Gas Code, International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, the 2020 National Electrical Code, and corresponding local amendments.

An Ordinance amending Chapter 11 of the City Code of San Antonio, Texas, by adopting the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code and corresponding local amendments.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The building-related and fire codes that apply to the construction, alteration, enlargement, replacement, use, and occupancy of every building or structure are updated by the International Code Council (ICC) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) every three years. Currently, San Antonio is operating under the 2018 editions of the International Building Code (IBC), International Existing Building Code (IEBC), International Fire Code (IFC), International Residential Code (IRC), International Mechanical Code (IMC), International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC), International Plumbing Code (IPC), International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) and the 2017 edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC).

Prior to the start of code review meetings, the Development Services Department (DSD) held two online community meetings to detail the code adoption process and provide resources to submit proposed amendments, attend public meetings, and provide feedback on any proposals. The meetings were held on February 15th and 19th and were attended by citizens from Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, & 10.

Since February 2022, DSD has reviewed the updated codes along with the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) and the Office of Sustainability (OS). DSD coordinated twenty (20) open public meetings of the Building-Related and Fire Codes Appeals and Advisory Board (BRFCAAB) and its code review subcommittees in 2022 to ensure significant stakeholder involvement and input throughout the process. Stakeholder groups were notified of proposed draft changes to the proposed codes by DSD, SAFD, and OS staff via email copy and posting on the DSD and SAFD websites.

Stakeholder groups involved throughout the process include the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Structural Engineers Association of Texas (SEAOt), National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), Greater San Antonio Builders Association (GSABA), American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA SA), Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors (PHCC), Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC), Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC), Professional Engineers in Private Practice (PEPP), Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), San Antonio Apartment Association (SAAA), San Antonio Board of Realtors (SABOR), Build San Antonio Green (BSAG), The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), CPS Energy, San Antonio Water System (SAWS), Bexar County and local School Districts.

The individual Code Review subcommittees presented their recommendations to the full BRFCAAB for review and consideration. On Thursday, June 30, and Thursday, July 21, 2022, the BRFCAAB held final public hearings where it recommended approval of the various model codes and proposed local amendments. The Committee recommended the proposed changes to the full City Council for approval.

ISSUE:

Proposed ordinance will update the City's adopted codes to the 2021 editions of the International Building Code, the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings, the International Plumbing Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Energy Conservation Code, the International Existing Building Code, the International Fuel Gas Code, International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, the 2021 National Electrical Code, and corresponding local amendments.

Proposed Ordinance will update the City's adopted International Fire Code to the 2021 edition and corresponding local amendments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the City Council does not adopt the above-referenced Ordinances to the current editions of the model codes plus proposed local amendments, the 2017/2018 model codes currently adopted will remain in effect.

RECOMMENDATION:

Development Services Department (DSD), San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD), and the Office of Sustainability (OS) recommend that the Planning and Community Development Committee approve forwarding staff's recommendations for the adoption of the 2021 updated building-related and fire codes with proposed amendments to the City Council for consideration.