



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

Council Session

## Item F5

**#8957 - Consideration of Amendments to Chapter 16 of the City Code Relative to International Fire Codes**

Staff Contact: Jim Rowell

# Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Fred Hotz, Fire Prevention Division Chief  
**Meeting:** February 22, 2005  
**Subject:** Adoption of 2003 International Fire Code  
**Item #:** F-5  
**Presenter(s):** Fred Hotz, Fire Prevention Division Chief

## Background

Internationally, code officials recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date fire code addressing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire, explosion, handling or use of hazardous materials and the use and occupancy of buildings and premises. The *International Fire Code*®, in this 2003 edition, is designed to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small. This comprehensive fire code establishes minimum regulations for fire prevention and fire protection systems using prescriptive and performance-related provisions. It is founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new system designs. This 2003 edition is fully compatible with all the *International Codes* (“I-Codes”) published by the International Code Council (ICC), including the *International Building Code* which is also proposed for adoption by the building department.

## Discussion

The City currently adopts and enforces the 1991 Uniform Fire Code. This edition is 14 years old and in many respects outdated. After reviewing the model code options and polling other Nebraska communities of comparable size and or larger communities including Omaha, Lincoln, Hastings, Ralston, North Platte, Norfolk and others, the listed communities and most other communities have adopted or plan to adopt the International Fire Code (IFC). There is good reason for this. In communities that adopt and enforce building codes, it is paramount to adopt and enforce compatible codes. This is not only desirable for the enforcers, but is most desirable from the perspective of the architects, designers, engineers and contractors.

## **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Approve the request and amend the City Code to adopt the International Fire Code.
2. Disapprove or deny the request.
3. Modify the request to meet the wishes of the Council
4. Table the issue

## **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the recommendation of the Fire Prevention Division of the Fire Department and Adopt the International Fire Code.

## **Sample Motion**

A motion to approve ordinance # 8957 amending Chapter 16 of the Grand Island city code and adopting the 2003 International Fire Code with specified revisions.

ORDINANCE NO. 8957

An ordinance to amend Chapter 16 of the Grand Island City Code; to amend Sections 16-1 and 16-3 to adopt the International Fire Code; to add Sections 16-3.1, 16-3.2, 16-3.3, 16-3.4, and 16-3.5 to the Grand Island City Code pertaining to the International Fire Code; to repeal Sections 16-1 and 16-3 as now existing, and any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; and to provide for publication and the effective date of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1. Section 16-1 of the Grand Island City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**§16-1. ~~International Uniform Fire Code (IFC) Adopted~~**

The ~~International Uniform~~ Fire Code, ~~2003~~ 1991 Edition, published by the International ~~Code Council Conference of Building Officials~~, is hereby adopted, except for such portions as heretofore or hereafter have been deleted, modified, or amended by ordinance and set forth in this Code. The following sections of the Appendix shall also be adopted:

- Appendix B – Fire Flow Requirements for Buildings
- Appendix C – Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution
- Appendix D – Fire Apparatus Access Roads
- Appendix E – Hazard Categories
- Appendix F – Hazard Ranking

One copy of said Code shall be filed in the office of the City Clerk as provided by law.

SECTION 2. Section 16-3 of the Grand Island City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**§16-3. ~~International Uniform Fire Code (IFC); Sections Not Adopted~~**

It is especially provided that the following chapters, sections, and/or portions of the ~~International Uniform~~ Fire Code adopted pursuant to Section 16-1 above, are not adopted or approved, and the same shall be of no force and effect in accordance with state statutes:

- ~~1. Article 78 entitled "Fireworks"~~
- Section 105 – Permits
- Section 108 – Board of Appeals
- Chapter 38 – Liquefied Petroleum Gases
- Appendix A – Board of Appeals
- Appendix G – Cryogenic Fluids – Weight and Volume Equivalents

ORDINANCE NO. 8957 (Cont.)

SECTION 3. Section 16-3.1 is hereby added to the Grand Island City Code to read as follows:

**§16-3.1. IFC – Amendment of Section 102.3**

Section 102.3 of the International Fire Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

102.3 Change of use or occupancy. The provisions of the International Building Code shall apply to all buildings undergoing a change of occupancy.

SECTION 4. Section 16-3.2 is hereby added to the Grand Island City Code to read as follows:

**§16-3.2. IFC – Amendment of Section 102.4**

Section 102.4 of the International Fire Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

102.4 Application of building code. The design and construction of new structures shall comply with the International Building Code. Repairs, alterations and additions to existing structures shall comply with the International Building Code.

SECTION 5. Section 16-3.3 is hereby added to the Grand Island City Code to read as follows:

**§16-3.3. IFC – Amendment of Section 102.5**

Section 102.5 of the International Fire Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

102.5 Historic buildings. The construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation or movement of existing buildings or structures that are designated as historic buildings when such buildings or structures do not constitute a distinct hazard to life or property shall be in accordance with the provisions of the International Building Code.

SECTION 6. Section 16-3.4 is hereby added to the Grand Island City Code to read as follows:

**§16-3.4. IFC – Amendment of Section 109.3**

Section 109.3 of the International Fire Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

109.3 Violation penalties. Persons who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter, repair or do work in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the fire code official, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this code, shall be subject to penalties as prescribed by law. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

SECTION 7. Section 16-3.5 is hereby added to the Grand Island City Code to read as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 8957 (Cont.)

**§16-3.5. IFC – Amendment of Section 111.4**

Section 111.4 of the International Fire Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

111.4 Failure to comply. Any person who shall continue any work after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be subject to penalties as prescribed by law.

SECTION 8. Sections 16-1 and 16-3 as now existing, and any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and hereby are, repealed.

SECTION 9. That this ordinance shall be in force and take effect on March 31, 2005, after its passage and publication, within fifteen days in one issue of the Grand Island Independent as provided by law.

Enacted: February 22, 2005.

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Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

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RaNae Edwards, City Clerk