

**83440** An Ordinance to amend Chapter 159, entitled Fire Prevention, of the City Code to include the 2012 Edition of the International Fire Code was presented to the City Commission on April 22, 2014 under File No. 83411 to be considered for adoption this date.

Com. Lumpkins, supported by Com. Kelly, moved adoption of the following ordinance:

#### **SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-24**

This Ordinance amends Chapter 159, Title IX of the City of Grand Rapids Code entitled "Fire Prevention."

The proposed amendment will accomplish the following:

1. The proposed amendment will update the Fire Code from the 2003 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC) to the 2012 edition of the IFC, with local amendments. The 2012 edition of the IFC is the most recent edition published by the International Code Council.

The 2012 IFC updates new technology requirements that were not fully addressed in the 2003 IFC. For example, the 2012 IFC will provide for rules and guidance for solar photovoltaic power systems, alternative fuels, rooftop gardens and landscape roofs, and new battery technology.

3. The ordinance amendment will also help to provide building information for firefighting purposes. New code sections in the proposed fire code include a standardized placarding system for unsafe vacant buildings, and sections that determine minimum building information that must be available to fire service personnel in large, complex buildings.
4. Finally, an update to the 2012 IFC will clarify certain standards from previous editions and align Grand Rapids with the current best practices in fire safety, fire prevention, and emergency planning and preparedness.

**NOTE: Copies of the full text of the proposed Ordinance are available for inspection and distribution at the office of the City Clerk on the second floor of City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave., NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503.**

#### **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 159 OF TITLE IX OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS IN ITS ENTIRETY.**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2014-24**

#### **THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS DO ORDAIN:**

Section 1. That Chapter 159 "Fire Prevention" of Title IX "Police Regulations" of the Grand Rapids City Code be and is hereby amended in its entirety, to read as follows:

#### **"Sec. 9.331. Adoption of International Fire Code.**

The City of Grand Rapids, in order to regulate and govern the safe guarding of life and property from fire or explosion hazards, adopts The International Fire Code, 2012 edition, as published by the International Code Council, including appendix B, D, F, I and J of said International Fire Code.

The purpose and intent of this code is to prescribe minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized standards for providing a reasonable level of safety to life and property and for protection from the hazards of fire, explosion, or dangerous conditions arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices and from conditions

hazardous to life or property related to the occupancy of buildings and premises. This code shall also provide for the issuance of certain permits and collection of delineated fees.

All matters within the intent of this code and not covered by this code shall comply with the referenced standards listed in the International Fire Code, 2012 edition, as published by the International Code Council (including Appendix Chapters B, D, F, I and J).

At least three (3) copies of this Code have been and are now filed in the City Clerk's office except as otherwise specifically stated herein, the provisions of such Code are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as though fully set out at length herein, and the provisions thereof shall be controlling within the City of Grand Rapids.

**Sec. 9.332. Conflict with Other Laws.**

Should any provision of the City Code or State law require a permit or license covering the same operations, business, activity or material for which the Fire Code requires a permit, such City Code provision or State law shall prevail and it shall be necessary to obtain the permit as required by the Fire Code.

Should any new construction requirements in the current edition of Michigan Building Code conflict with construction requirements in the Fire Code, the Michigan Building Code shall prevail.

**Sec. 9.333. Changes in Code.**

The following sections and subsections of the 2012 International Fire Code are hereby amended or deleted as set forth and additional sections and subsections are added as indicated. Subsequent section numbers used in this Chapter shall refer to the like numbered sections of the International Fire Code, 2012 edition.

- (1) Section *101.1*. 101.1 Title. These regulations shall be known as the Fire Code of City of Grand Rapids, herein referred to as "this code".
- (2) Section *108.1*. 108.1 Board of Appeals established. In order to hear and decide appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the Fire Code Official relative to the application and interpretation of this code there shall be a Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals shall be the Construction Code Board of Appeals of the City of Grand Rapids. All appeals shall be governed by the procedures for appeals to the Construction Code Board of Appeals.
- (3) Section *109.4*. 109.4 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 to 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 Chapter, shall be guilty of a municipal civil infraction for the first offense. All subsequent offenses shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500, or imprisonment for up to 90 days, or both such fines and imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense and a separate violation subject to enforcement action.
- (4) Section *110* Unsafe Buildings. 110.5 Posting of Official Fire Department Notices. Whenever it is determined by the Fire Official that a building is unsafe for public occupancy or public safety personnel, the Fire Official or other personnel may evacuate and/or post a notice, placard, or sign on the building indicating the building's unsafe condition.

- (5) Section 111.4. 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 guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (6) Section 507.5.1. 507.5.1 Where Required. Where a portion of the facility or building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction is more than 300 feet from a hydrant on a fire apparatus access road, as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the facility or building, on-site fire hydrants and mains shall be provided where required by the fire code official. Provided however, that for group R-3 occupancies the distance requirement shall be 400 feet.
- (7) Section 1103.9. Deleted.
- (8) Section 1104.1 General. Means of egress in existing buildings shall comply with the minimum egress requirements when specified in Table 1103.1 as further enumerated in Sections 1104.2 through 1104.24, and the building code that applied at the time of construction. Where the provisions of this chapter conflict with the building code that applied at the time of construction, the most restrictive provision shall apply. Existing buildings that were not required to comply with a building code at the time of construction shall comply with the minimum egress requirements when specified in Table 1103.1 as further enumerated in Sections 1104.2 through 1104.24.

Exception: Means of egress conforming to the requirements of the building code under which they were constructed shall be considered as complying means of egress if, in the opinion of the fire code official, they do not constitute a distinct hazard to life.

- (9) Section 1104.24. Deleted.
- (10) Section 5704.2.9.6.1. 5704.2.9.6.1 Locations where above ground tanks are prohibited. New bulk plants for storage of Class I and II liquids in above ground tanks outside of buildings are permitted only in areas zoned SD-IT, unless the Fire Code Official modifies this requirement in writing.  
  
All above ground storage tanks shall comply with the provisions of NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquids, the most current edition.
- (11) Section 5706.2.4.4. 5706.2.4.4 Locations where above ground tanks are prohibited. The storage of Class I and Class II liquids in above ground storage tanks is permitted only in areas zoned SD-IT, unless the Fire Code Official modifies this requirement in writing.
- (12) Section 5806.2. 5806.2 Limitations. The storage of flammable cryogenic fluids in stationary containers is permitted only in areas zoned SD-IT, unless the Fire Code Official modifies this requirement in writing.
- (13) Section 6104.2. 6104.2 Maximum capacity within established limits. Within the limits established by law restricting the storage of liquefied petroleum gas for the protection of heavily populated or congested areas, the aggregate capacity of any one installation shall not exceed a water capacity of 500 gallons or two hundred ten pounds gas capacity.

Exception: In particular installations this capacity limit shall be determined by the *fire code official*, after consideration of special features such as topographical conditions, nature of occupancy, and proximity to buildings, capacity of proposed

LP-gas containers, degree of fire protection to be provided and capabilities of the local fire department. The fire code official may require plans to be submitted prior to allowing an increased capacity limit.

- (14) Section *J101.1* Scope. Where required by the fire code official due to the size, height, complex layout, fire protection features, or use of a structure, or due to historic response activity, new and existing buildings shall have a building information sign(s) that comply with Sections J101.1.1 through J101.7.

Exceptions:

- 1. Group U occupancies
- 2. One- and two-family dwellings

- (15) Section *J101.8* Sign classification maintenance, building information. Sign maintenance shall comply with each of the following:

- 1. Fire departments in the jurisdiction shall define the designations to be placed with the sign.  
The owner of a building shall be responsible for the maintenance and updates to the sign in accordance with fire department designations.

**Sec. 9.334. Permits and Fees.**

The fees required for the issuance or granting of any permit, certification, inspections services, other Fire Department operational fees, and collection services fees, as charged by the City Treasurer, shall be established from time to time by appropriate City Commission Resolution.

**Sec. 9.335. Reports.**

The following reports are required as designated below:

*INSPECTION REPORT – ADMINISTRATIVE*

<i>Automatic Fire-Suppression Systems.</i> An annual inspection report is required for an automatic fire-extinguishing system.
<i>Fire Alarm and Detection Systems and Related Equipment.</i> An annual inspection report is required for fire alarm and detection systems and related equipment.
<i>Hood Suppression Systems and Related Equipment.</i> A semi-annual inspection report is required for hood suppression systems and related equipment.
<i>Life Safety System.</i> An annual inspection report is required for life safety systems such as rolling fire doors, smoke evacuation systems, and smoke dampers.
<i>Inspection Reports.</i> Inspection due dates are based on a fixed date as assigned by the Fire Department. Annual inspection reports are due yearly by the assigned date. Semi-annual inspection reports are due twice a year by the assigned dates.

**Secs. 9.336—9.360 Reserved.”**

Carried by a roll call vote:        Yeas: -6        Nays: -0

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true transcript of the action of the City Commission of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, in public session held May 13, 2014.

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Darlene O’Neal, Acting City Clerk