



City Council Study Session

Meeting Date: June 6, 2022

Requested By: Development Services Dept.

Item Title:

Discussion regarding the ISO Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Classification and adoption of newer building codes.

Explanation:

On December 14, 2021, the city received its Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) survey results from Insurances Services Office, Inc. (ISO) Mitigation. This nationwide survey is done every 4-5 years to assess building codes in effect in a community and how the community enforces those codes. The concept is communities with well-enforced, up-to-date codes demonstrate better loss experience, less catastrophe-related damage, and safer buildings, which is reflected in lower insurance rates. The BCEGS schedule requires that a jurisdiction adopts building codes, conducts plan review and inspections, and provides for staff training. BCEGS classifications range from 1 to 10 with a Class 1 representing exemplary commitment to building-code enforcement.

ISO's BCEGS letter states that Oskaloosa's rating will be downgraded from a Class 4 to a Class 5, largely based on the older code versions currently adopted by the city. Staff has reviewed our processes and submitted a plan to ISO which should enable us to remain at a Class 4 rating. This plan includes adoption of the most recent versions of our building codes. The following is a table of currently adopted codes and the proposed codes that staff is recommending:

Currently Adopted Code	Recommended Code Adoption
2015 International Residential Code	2021 International Residential Code
2015 International Building Code	2021 International Building Code
2015 International Existing Building Code	2021 International Existing Building Code
2020 National Electric Code	Current code (no action required)
2015 Uniform Plumbing Code	2021 Uniform Plumbing Code
2015 International Mechanical Code	2021 International Mechanical Code
2015 International Fire Code	2021 International Fire Code

This study session is an opportunity for City Council to ask questions, discuss any concerns and

to provide staff with direction regarding the adoption of these codes. Building Official Mike Flahive will also attend to aid in the discussion.

Budget Consideration:

There is minimal financial impact associated with this item. Funds were included in the FY22 budget for updated code books, supplements, and training. These items have been purchased to aid in staff's review and assessment. Oskaloosa's building codes are enacted in [Title 15, Buildings and Construction](#), of the Oskaloosa Municipal Code. The codes may be updated by passing and codifying an ordinance with revisions to associated sections within Title 15.

Attachments:

1. Presentation slides
2. ISO BCEGS survey results report
3. BCEGS grades in Iowa comparison
4. 2021 IBC & IRC code changes
5. State and neighboring community comparison