

Lompoc City Council Agenda Item



City Council Meeting Date: February 18, 2014

TO: Patrick Wiemiller, City Administrator

FROM: Kurt Latipow, Fire Chief
k_latipow@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Introduction of Ordinance No. 1601(14) for the Adoption of the 2013 California Fire Code

Recommendation:

After reading by title only, introduce Ordinance No. 1601(14) to adopt by reference, as required by State law, the 2013 California Fire Code with amendments, as part of the Lompoc Municipal Code and set a public hearing on March 4, 2014, for adoption of California Fire Code (CFC) by reference.

Background:

The CFC is published every three years by order of the California Legislature. Once adopted by the State, those standards have the force of the law and take effect 180 days after publication. The effective date for the 2013 edition of the CFC is January 1, 2014. Cities and counties throughout the State are required to enforce the 2013 code provisions on and after January 1, 2014. Cities and counties have the authority to modify those standard provisions to more stringent standards through local amendments.

Government Code sections 50022.1 – 50022.10 require a public hearing be held after introduction of an ordinance that adopts codes by reference. Public notice of that hearing must be published once a week, for two successive weeks.

Discussion:

The proposed Ordinance amends Lompoc's Municipal Code so the model code adopted and published by the State is thereby referenced in local code. The purpose of the CFC is to establish minimum requirements necessary to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public by regulating and governing the safeguarding of life and property from fire and explosion, hazards arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life or property in the occupancy of buildings and premises in the City of Lompoc, providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees.

Staff is proposing several amendments related to clarification of duties, authorities, and construction. The most significant amendment is meant to govern the installation of Photovoltaic Power systems. Absent appropriate regulation, those systems have the potential to negatively impact firefighter safety and hamper firefighting efforts.

The section governing installation of fire sprinklers has been updated to add clarity and guidance.

The Fire Department plans to host a Public Workshop to discuss the new code, once we have the new Deputy Fire Marshal position filled.

The proposed amendments and deletions to the CFC are those necessary to eliminate conflicts with existing Lompoc Municipal Code provisions and provide amendments that are necessary due to local climatic, geological or topographic conditions present in Lompoc, as permitted by State law.

Public Hearing and Notice:

Pursuant to Government Code section 6066, the public hearing for adoption of the proposed ordinance must be published once a week, for two successive weeks. Two publications in a newspaper published once a week or oftener, with at least five days in between the respective publication dates not counting such publication dates, are sufficient. The period of notice commences upon the first day of publication and terminates at the end of the fourteenth day, including therein the first day. In order to meet that required notice period and for the Council to take its final action regarding this matter, the public hearing must be set on March 4, 2014.

Fiscal Impact:

The recommended actions will result in no direct financial impact to the City's General Fund. The cost to administer the Fire Code is captured through the City's Master Fee Schedule, Permits, and Plan Review fees.

Conclusion:

The proposed adoption of the Lompoc Fire Code is consistent with the Fire Department's Mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Latipow, Fire Chief

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Patrick Wiemiller, City Administrator

Attachment: [Ordinance No. 1601\(14\)](#)