

## MINUTES OF BUILDING CODE ADVISORY AND APPEALS BOARD

**DATE:** March 22, 2023  
**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Historic Federal Building

The meeting was called to order at 4:41 p.m.

Board Members Present: Tom Townsend C Blaine Schoenhard III  
Corey Valaskey Katrina Wilberding via web

Housing Staff Present: Mike Belmont Ben Pothoff Shane Hoeper  
Alex Rogan Jeff Zasada Mike Sievers  
George Jackson Gary Blosch

Other City Staff Present: Jason Lehman

Public Present: Brian Rogers, IAPMO

### **Adoption of Agenda**

Corey Valaskey motioned to adopt the agenda. C Blaine Schoenhard III seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

### **Approval of Minutes of March 2, 2023**

Corey Valaskey motioned to approve the minutes. C Blaine Schoenhard III seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **2021 International Residential Code (IRC)**

C Blaine Schoenhard III motioned to support proposed amendments to the IRC. Corey Valaskey seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

#### **2021 International Building Code (IBC)**

C Blaine Schoenhard III motioned to support the adoption of the 2021 International Building Code with the proposed amendments. Corey Valaskey seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

C Blaine Schoenhard III restated the motion to support the adoption of the 2021 International Residential Code with the proposed amendments. Corey Valaskey seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Point of order that a correction on the IPMC should be the year 2021 and not 2020 as the summary document indicates.

#### **2021 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC)**

C Blaine Schoenhard III motioned to support the adoption of the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code with the proposed amendments. Corey Valaskey seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

There was some discussion with the Board members regarding EERO's and when they are most typically found to be in violation.

### **2021 International Existing Building Code (IEBC)**

Corey Valaskey motioned to support the adoption of the 2021 International Existing Building Code with the proposed amendments. C Blaine Schoenhard III seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

### **2021 International Fire Code (IFC)**

C Blaine Schoenhard III motioned to support the adoption of the 2021 International Fire Code with the proposed amendments. Corey Valaskey seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Discussion about how the local ordinance will read given that the City has to also follow state amendments and requirements. Board members including Katrina Wilberding and Corey Valaskey felt that the local ordinance should reference the state requirements so it was clear what amendments applied.

### **2021 International Mechanical Code (IMC)**

Corey Valaskey motioned to support the adoption of the proposed 2021 International Mechanical Code as modified by the State of Iowa with the proposed local amendments. C Blaine Schoenhard III seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

### **2021 Universal Plumbing Code (UPC)**

Regarding UPC amendments, Corey Valaskey questioned the amendment for fees and fee refunds, regarding why similar language was not included in other code amendment recommendations.

Corey Valaskey motioned to support the adoption of the proposed 2021 Universal Plumbing Code as modified by the State of Iowa with the proposed local amendments. C Blaine Schoenhard III seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

### **2021 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)**

Discussion of concerns regarding what the UPC covers that might overlap with IFGC. Chapter 12 of UPC and NFPA 54 and 58 is extracted and duplicated in the UPC so overlap or missing elements should be limited. Brian Rogers with IAMPO offered to help with resources to help facilitate the review.

Comments were also made regarding State UPC fuel gas coverage. Katrina Wilberding expressed concerns with continuity for contractors and questioned recommending adoption of the 2021 and then needing to go back to the Council with updates shortly after.

Board members discussed the option of maintaining the 2018 IFGC while further review and correlation continues so a single update regarding this topic can be presented to Council for approval at a later date.

Katrina Wilberding motioned to table recommendation of adoption of the 2021 International Fuel Gas Code until a future meeting to allow time for a comprehensive review and correlation with the UPC be completed. C Blaine Schoenhard III seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

### **2020 National Electrical Code (NEC)**

There was a discussion on removal of the current amendment that requires MC cable for multi-family residential above the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Tom Townsend expressed concern regarding the removal of this amendment because he believes that MC is safer. He explained that out of town contractors often cut corners and wires can end up too close to the wall surface where protection would be required. Mike Belmont reiterated that we were not proposing any change that would be less safe than the NEC code as written. Mike Belmont stated that this local amendment puts an unnecessary cost burden on apartment projects.

C Blaine Schoenhard III motioned to support the adoption of the 2020 National Electrical Code proposed amendments with the exception of 334.10. Katrina Wilberding seconded. Motion passed 3-1.

### **Public Input**

There was no public in the gallery so there was no public input.

### **Items from the Board**

There were no items from the Board.

### **Items from Staff**

Mike Belmont stated the intent is to take recommendations and proposed amendments to City Council on April 3, 2023.

### **Adjournment**

Corey Valaskey motioned to adjourn the meeting. C Blaine Schoenhard III seconded. Motion passed 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm.

Minutes prepared by:



Tami Ernster  
Permit Clerk

Respectfully submitted:



Michael Belmont  
Building Code Official