



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. XI. N
1/16/2024

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Craig Freeman, City Manager

Public hearing regarding Ordinance amending the Oklahoma City Municipal Code, 2020, amending Chapter 16, relating to Drainage and Flood Control, by amending Section 16-6, Primary Drainage Channel Requirements, Section 16-7, Secondary Drainage Channels and Surface Drainage Requirements, 16-8, Rural Subdivisions, Section 16-10, Major River Channel Requirements and Section 16-18, Applicability of Provisions.

Purpose:

To amend those sections of the drainage ordinance to require mechanical and electrical equipment for residential or nonresidential structures to be elevated 1 foot above the 100-year flood elevation and to adopt updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Background:

The City of Oklahoma City participates in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) program which by meeting certain requirements of the program will receive a rating from 1 to 9 with 9 being the lowest class. The City is currently at a Class 9 which provides residents a 5% discount on flood insurance premiums. A prerequisite for Class 8 is to require in the drainage ordinance that mechanical and electrical equipment be elevated 1 foot above the 100-year flood elevation in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Currently, these sections of Chapter 16 require mechanical and electrical equipment to be designed and/or located to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding. This ordinance amends Sections 16-6, 16-7, 16-8, and 16-10 to require mechanical and electrical equipment for residential or nonresidential structures to be elevated 1 foot above the 100-year flood elevation. This will reduce the risk of damage from floodwaters, increase safety by reducing the risk of electrical fires or equipment malfunction, reduce disruption in service, provide long term cost saving, and lower insurance premiums. Amending the ordinance will move the City up to CRS Class 8 and provide a 10% discount on flood insurance premiums for residents in the SFHA.

This ordinance also amends Section 16-18 to adopt two new FIRM from FEMA. The new map covers Cleveland and Oklahoma Counties. The maps for Cleveland County were updated in 2008 and Oklahoma County were updated in 2009, previously. Updates to this ordinance allow for continuity of availability of flood insurance coverage for Oklahoma City residents.

Review:

Public Works Department

Recommendation: Public hearing be held.