

**JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
INFORMAL MEETING NOTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2019**

Mayor Shaw called the February 19, 2019 Informal Meeting of the Joplin City Council to order at 5:15 p.m.

In attendance were Council Members: Taylor Brown, Doug Lawson, Anthony Monteleone, Diane Reid Adams, Mayor Gary Shaw, Ryan Stanley, and Phil Stinnett. Also, in attendance were City Manager Sam Anselm and City Attorney Peter Edwards. Absent: Melodee Colbert-Kean. (Jim West resigned from the City Council on Friday, February 15, 2019).

Update on Building Code Changes:

Bryan Wicklund, Chief Building Official for City of Joplin, reviewed upcoming building code changes. He stated the City tries to update the Code every six years. The tornado in 2011 threw the City off that schedule and now we're trying to get updated to the 2018 codes. The code is updated to try to keep up with the new building materials and methods of construction. It also affects our ISO rating and homeowner's insurance by requiring a current building code adoption to be in force.

Mr. Wicklund reviewed nine areas of the proposed changes. The entire list of proposed changes will be presented to City Council at the March 4 council meeting.

Mr. Wicklund stated the Energy Code was exempted from the last code adoption, and it will be proposed in March to exempt it again from the proposed code updates. A study done by the National Home Builders Association found that if the current energy code was enforced during construction, it will likely raise the cost of construction by a minimum of \$3.50-\$4.00 per square foot on an average house. With the profit margin that the contractors are making locally (Joplin) - hitting them with \$5,000 - \$7,000 of additional up-front costs most likely won't be able to be recovered when they sell it. HBA is in favor of exempting that code again, but possibly phasing it in sometime in the future.

Mr. Stanley asked what IRC and NEC stood for. IRC is the International Residential Code and NEC is National Electrical Code.

The City adopted the International Existing Building Code at the last code adoption. That helped with some of the older, existing buildings around town. It allows some variations that have to be considered when you're dealing with some buildings that are not going to meet 100% of the current building codes, unless you tear them down and start over. The existing building code sets up a pathway to get to a point where you don't have to start from the ground level and rebuild these buildings, so it's been very good.

Another code we'd like to adopt for the first time, is the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code. The City Health Department has encouraged us to do this. This will not affect existing pools or spas; only new construction and design of commercial and residential pools. This code will put

us in line with the rest of our codes and is written by the same people who wrote the building codes. The Health Dept. will continue doing the operation side of the inspections of existing pools.

Letters of recommendations from the Joplin HBA as well as the Tri State Area Contractors were received in support of adopting the proposed codes.

Mr. Stanley suggested the City inform pool contractors of the proposed changes and Mr. Wicklund replied he would work on it.

Mr. Monteleone asked about the energy code exemption. Mr. Wicklund explained the energy requirements that were included in the 2006 building code became effective so quickly that many of the cities and contractors went to the code hearings to try fight it, but the requirements passed and got into the code. Cities began exempting the energy code from their building codes. A study was done by the National Home Builders Association on the energy code and how it would affect the contractors and overall costs of building a house.

Mr. Monteleone stated he would like to see the City gradually move towards the energy requirements. Even though there's a potential burden on the contractor, the homeowners can add the extra costs into their home loan to reap the energy benefits.

Mr. Wicklund answered questions regarding what code our neighboring municipalities follow; the inspection process; and remodeling projects. After his presentation, Council Members thanked him for the update; for keeping the public in the loop; and for developing a better relationship with builders over the years.

Ryan Talken, Assistant Health Director, commented on the proposed adoption of the Pools and Spas Code. The existing code has two parts: a) design, and b) operational. The Health Dept. plans to bring a council bill to Council to rescind the existing design side (a) of the code and keep the operational side (b) of the code. Future plans are to bring an operational code that is based on the CDC standards.

Invitation

Mayor Shaw discussed the invitation from On the Border Restaurant for a local officials meet and greet event. The Council decided on Wednesday, March 6. City Clerk Barb Gollhofer stated she would contact OTB and confirm the date and time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.



Barbara Gollhofer, City Clerk