
City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Public Works
FROM: Errick Thompson, Deputy Public Works Director
MEETING: September 18, 2023

SUBJECT:

Consider approval of an ordinance amending Article III “Flood Damage Prevention” of Chapter 42 “Floods” of the City of Burleson Code of Ordinances. (*Final Reading*) (*Staff Contact: Errick Thompson, Deputy Public Works Director*)

SUMMARY:

The original Flood Ordinance (B-154) was adopted on November 23, 1971. There have been several amendments, and the last amendment was in October 2008. The City Council approved these amendments on first reading at the September 5, 2023 regular council meeting. The City is also a member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). As a member of the NFIP, the City would be eligible for federal assistance in the event a disaster is declared for Johnson or Tarrant County.

The primary purpose of the current proposed amendment is to meet the requirement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to adopt the recently completed revision to the countywide Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Johnson and Tarrant Counties, including the incorporated areas. The City of Burleson is not directly affected by these updates; however, the City does lie in one or more of the revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). If, at a minimum, the language to adopt the updated FIS report and FIRM is not approved by September 21, 2023, the NFIP may suspend the City’s membership.

Staff is also proposing minor updates to the ordinance to provide clear direction for developing within the FEMA regulated floodplain. The minor updates include providing a definition for adverse impacts and fully developed as it relates to the discharges calculated by the City’s most recent master drainage study models.

The City’s policy today requires property owners to evaluate the impacts of their development against the City’s Master Drainage Study (MDS). The MDS models are calculated with fully development flows based on the City’s future land use map and anticipated growth in the area. In addition, proposed developments are not allowed to increase the water surface elevation within the City’s MDS nor increase the floodplain boundary on adjacent neighboring properties. The proposed amendment includes language to clearly convey these requirements to property owners and the development community.

In addition to the proposed changes above, several text amendments are proposed that will increase the safety factor for proposed structures and include minor changes to align with the state's model ordinance.

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and FEMA require the proposed ordinance to be submitted for review prior to presenting to the City Council. The proposed amendment language has been approved by both governing bodies. A copy of the signed ordinance will be provided following approval by City Council.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve an ordinance amending Article III "Flood Damage Prevention" of Chapter 42 "Floods" of the City of Burleson Code of Ordinances. (*Final Reading*)
- 2) Deny an ordinance amending Article III "Flood Damage Prevention" of Chapter 42 "Floods" of the City of Burleson Code of Ordinances. (*Final Reading*)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve an ordinance amending Article III "Flood Damage Prevention" of Chapter 42 "Floods" of the City of Burleson Code of Ordinances. (*Final Reading*)

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

None

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