

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Jim Byrne, Director of Emergency Management
Dennis Day, Lead Specialist
Ingrid Decker, Legal

SUBJECT

Items Relating to Emergency Management.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 084, 2023, Amending Article IX of Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins Regarding Emergency Management.

B. Resolution 2023-065 Approving the City of Fort Collins Emergency Operations Plan.

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on June 6, 2023, amends the City Code to reflect updates on how emergency management programming is done and where the responsibility for that programming sits. This includes some updated language changes, as well as authorities and roles for staff and elected officials during a critical event.

On Second Reading of the Ordinance, Council is asked to consider a Resolution to adopt an updated Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) that supports and is consistent with the requested changes in the City Code.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Discussions about developing a dedicated office of emergency management within the City began after the 2013 flood. Though City staff performed at high levels, and the City fared well in comparison to regional neighbors, a thorough after-action report noted a lack of pre-planning and coordinated efforts in some critical areas. In 2019 a decision was made to transfer emergency management responsibilities from Poudre Fire Authority (PFA) to a dedicated office within the City, reporting to the city manager. The Office of Emergency Preparedness and Security (EPS) was established in January of 2020, just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The recommended City Code update to Article IX of Chapter 2, and EOP adoption, are a formal acknowledgment of those changes and commitment to current organizational practices. These proposed Code updates and changes are consistent with industry best practices, and align with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards:

- Transfers responsibility for emergency management in the City of Fort Collins from Poudre Fire Authority, to a dedicated City department, Emergency Preparedness and Security (EPS).
- Names the Director of EPS as the “Emergency Manager” for the City of Fort Collins.
- Changes language in the old code that referred to a “Disaster Council” headed by the Mayor during times of emergencies, replacing it with industry standard “Policy Group,” led by the City Manager.
- Members of the “Policy Group” are outlined in the City EOP and must at least include the Mayor, and Emergency Manager, and City Attorney, or their designees.
- Allows the City Manager to adopt updates to the EOP as needed without submitting every change to City Council, but City Council must approve the complete EOP at least once every five years.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Not applicable.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

First Reading attachments not included.

1. Ordinance for Consideration
2. Resolution for Consideration
3. Exhibit A to Resolution