



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Request to Include Topic on the City Council Agenda

From: Emily Kane, Deputy City Attorney **Meeting Date:** September 26, 2023

Presenter: Emily Kane, Deputy City Attorney **Estimated Time:** 15 minutes
Joe Bongiorno, Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention

Topic: Proposed updates to Title 5, Meridian City Code (Fire Regulations) and proposed updates to Title 3, Chapter 1, Meridian City Code (General Licensing and Permitting Provisions)

Recommended Council Action:

Review and approve proposed updates to Title 5, Meridian City Code and proposed updates to Title 3, Chapter 1, Meridian City Code; direct staff to finalize ordinance for adoption.

Background:

The City of Meridian's 2021–2025 Strategic Plan includes this goal: "[U]pdate ordinances and simplify processes in order to improve effectiveness and provide premier services to our citizens." One of the enumerated strategies supporting this goal is to "perform a complete review of all ordinances, codes and policies in the City of Meridian to assess their value and relevance to the community."

On October 11, 2022, City Council approved the plan of the City Attorney's Office to undertake a comprehensive overhaul and restructuring of the City Code, in order to improve the Code's clarity, consistency, effectiveness, and navigational utility. City Council directed this office to prepare proposed code updates and return regularly to obtain input and direction.

The City Attorney's Office worked with the legendary Assistant City Clerk Nancy Radford to prepare the attached updates to Title 3, Chapter 1. These changes will bring uniformity in processes for issuing, denying, and revoking City licenses and permits; as well as appeals of denials and revocations. The City Attorney's Office worked with Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention Joe Bongiorno, as well as the Meridian Police Department and City Clerk's Office, to prepare the attached updates to Title 5.

This update will move all of the current provisions out of Title 5. Proposed next steps for the City Code overhaul include the following:

- Move Fireworks permitting regulations to Title 3, Chapter 8
- Move Title 3, Chapter 8 (Private Security Standards) to Title 6, Chapter 3 (misdemeanors/infractns.)
- Move Air Quality/Burning regulations to Title 4 (Public Health and Safety)
- Move Parks Code to Title 5 (currently Fire)
- Rename Title 6 "Public Safety" (currently Police)
- Rename Title 3 "Permits and Licenses" (currently Business & License Regulations)
- Rename Title 4 "Public Health" (currently Public Health and Safety)
- Eliminate Titles 12 (currently empty) and 13 (currently Parks)