



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

98-295

SYNOPSIS —

AGENDA:
JULY 13, 1998

This includes proposed changes to Chapter 8 of the Municipal Code (Building Construction Codes), specifically subchapter four (Plumbing Code).

SUBJECT:
PROPOSED
CHANGES TO
CHAPTER 8,
MUNICIPAL CODE,
RELATED TO
UPDATE OF
PLUMBING CODE

These proposed changes are recommended by the Plumbing Board.

These changes in essence adopt the current edition the Uniform Plumbing Code (1997 edition); presently the City of Des Moines has adopted the 1991 edition of this document, with local amendments. Included in the proposed ordinance changes are modifications suggested to bring our plumbing code to be more compatible with the Iowa State Plumbing Code, which is mandated by the State as minimum plumbing code provisions. The following is a brief description of each of the proposed changes to the ordinance:

TYPE:
RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:
JAMES GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

Section 8-153

This change adopts the most current edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC).

Sections 8-154, 8-155, 8-195.01, 8-196, 8-197, 8-199, 8-212, 8-215, 8-218.

These sections include changes to references to the UPC that are necessary to correlate with the new format of the 1997 edition of the UPC.

Section 8-173

This change is merely a clarification. The present language in the ordinance indicates that violations and penalties are in accordance with "this code". The Municipal Code and the UPC both have sections related to violations. The Municipal Code prevails; therefore, we are clarifying this in this section.

Sections 8-174, 8-176.

This section includes changes to the language related to the

way examinations and applications are received and paid. Approximately eight years ago the plumbing board agreed to allow an independent examination service to administer the examinations for journeyman and master plumbers. This change is recommended to reflect current practice.

Section 8-178.01

This section requires contractors to have their vehicles to be identified by permanent signage. This has been a difficult requirement to enforce consistently and fairly. This matter was discussed by the plumbing board and agreed that this requirement was overly restrictive and unreasonable. In essence, this requirement indicates that a stop work order could be issued to a project if the contractor does not have a sign on their vehicle, regardless if the actual plumbing work passed inspection. It is recommended that this section be eliminated.

Sections 8-198, 8-201.

This section includes changes to the required materials for drainage systems. In essence, this change will allow the use of approved plastic pipe for underground drainage applications. This section also specifically allows "No-Hub" Cast Iron pipe to represent current practice.

Sections 8-200, 8-202, 8-203, 8-205, 8-206, 8-209, 8-211, 8-212n, 8-215.

Include either changes to these sections or the complete elimination of these sections to bring our local plumbing code in compliance with the minimum requirements of the Iowa State plumbing Code.

Section 8-212

This section includes changes that in essence, will now allow approved plastic pipe to be used for water piping within a building. This is recommended by the plumbing board after considerable review and consideration. The use of this type of material is limited to within a building that is allowed to be built of combustible materials. The type of plastic is limited to PVC or CPVC pipe, which you may recognize as the "white" plastic water pipe.

Other changes in this section reflect recommendations from the Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) related to the specific standard of pipe and the type of tracer wire required.

FISCAL IMPACT –

None Expected

RECOMMENDATION –

Approval.

BACKGROUND –

Two public hearings have been held by the Plumbing Board to discuss these proposed changes at which time the Des Moines Water Works, the Des Moines Homebuilder Association, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Iowa, and the Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Association of Iowa were all sent copies of these changes and invited to review and suggest changes and/or comments related to this proposal. As a result, suggestions were received from the Des Moines Water Works and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Iowa. The Board reviewed their requests and adopted most of the suggestions recommended by these organizations. These changes can be found in sections 8-154, 8-178, 8-198.