

March 8, 2023

To Contractors, Architects, Engineers and Designers:

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, the Fort Smith Board of Directors passed and approved the Arkansas Fire Prevention Codes Volumes I, II and III concerning the construction codes used in the City of Fort Smith. The purpose of the ordinances was to update the Construction Codes based off of the 2021 IFC, IBC and IRC codes of the International Codes.

The codes adopted by the Board of Directors were updated versions of the codes currently being used in the City. Also, these codes were adopted by the State of Arkansas through the Arkansas Fire Marshal's Office. State legislation requires the City to maintain codes at least as stringent as the applicable State Codes.

Ordinance No.25-23, 26-23 and 27-23 adopts the 2021 Editions of the Arkansas State Fire Prevention Codes Volumes I, II and II. The code updates will go into effect April 7, 2023. Any project permitted on or after that date will be subject to the new codes. The Arkansas Fire Marshal's office has been enforcing the codes since January 1, 2023.

Let me know if you have a project under contract or bid that you used the older editions of the codes to plan the job. We will recognize the existing codes for those situations if you can give us documentation that shows you have given a legitimate bid or executed a contract before notification of this change.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this matter.

Sincerely,



Jimmie Deer;
Director of Building Services

ORDINANCE No. 25-23

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE KNOWN AS THE 2021 ARKANSAS FIRE PREVENTION CODE VOLUME I AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, THAT:

SECTION 1: Section 10-31 of the Fort Smith Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

There is hereby adopted by the Board of Directors for the purpose of establishing rules and regulations governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire and explosion that certain code known as the Fire Prevention Code adopted by the Fire Marshal Section of the Arkansas State Police, being particularly the 2021 edition of the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Volume I of such code and the whole thereof, save and except such portions as are hereinafter deleted, modified or amended, of which not less than three (3) copies have been incorporated as fully as if set out at length herein; and the provisions thereof shall be controlling within the City

SECTION 2: The following subsections of Section 10-32 of the Fort Smith Municipal Code are amended to read as follows:

- (3) Delete this paragraph in its entirety
- (4) Appendixes B, C, D, E, F, G and K are adopted.
- (5) Delete Appendixes A, H, I and J

SECTION 3: Effective Date:

The Ordinance shall be effective commencing on April 7, 2023

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 7th DAY OF March, 2023.

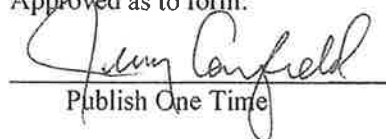
APPROVED:


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk

Approved as to form:


Publish One Time

ORDINANCE NO. 26-23AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE KNOWN AS THE 2021 ARKANSAS FIRE PREVENTION CODE VOLUME II AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, THAT:

SECTION 1: Section 6-26 of the Fort Smith Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

There is hereby adopted by the Board of Directors for the purpose of establishing rules and regulations for the construction, alteration, removal, demolition, equipment, use and occupancy, location and maintenance of buildings and structures, including permits and penalties, that certain building code known as the International Building Code being particularly the 2021 edition of the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Volume II of such code and the whole thereof, save and except such portions as are hereinafter deleted, modified or amended, of which not less than three (3) copies have been incorporated as fully as if set out at length herein; and the provisions thereof shall be controlling within the city.

Section 2: The following identified subsections of Section 6-27 of the Fort Smith Municipal Code are amended to read as follows:

(1) Section 105.1 is amended to read as follows:

Any owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any parking lot, signs, electrical, gas, mechanical, or plumbing systems, the installation of which is regulated by the adopted codes, or to cause any such work to be preformed, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permits, where required. If there is no building official appointed, the owner, authorized agent or contractor shall make application to the State Fire Marshal.

(4) Section 109.4 is amended to read as follows:

Any person who commences any work on a building, structure, parking lot, signs, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing before obtaining the necessary permits shall be subject to a penalty of 100% of the usual permit fee in addition to the required permit fee.

- (6) Delete Chapters 27 and 28
- (7) Appendixes C, D, E and O are adopted:
- (8) Delete Appendixes A, B, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M and N.

Section 3: Effective Date:

The ordinance shall be effective commencing April 7, 2023

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 7th DAY OF March, 2023

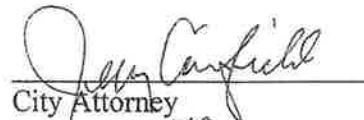
APPROVED


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

Approved as to form:


City Attorney
Pats'ish Thomas

ORDINANCE NO. 27-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6-2 OF THE FORT SMITH MUNICIPAL CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE FOR ONE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS KNOWN AS THE 2021 EDITION OF THE ARKANSAS FIRE PREVENTION CODE VOLUME III.

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, THAT:

SECTION 1: Section 6-2 of the Fort Smith Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

For the purpose of prescribing regulations governing the minimum standards applicable to one and Two Family Dwellings in the City, there is hereby adopted that certain code known as the 2021 Edition of the International Residential Code Known as the 2021 Edition of the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Volume III less and except the identified chapters and appendixes of which code not less than three (3) copies have been and are now filed in the office of the City Clerk and the same is hereby adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out at length herein, and the provisions thereof shall be controlled in the limits of the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

SECTION 2: Subsection (6) of Section 6-3 of the Fort Smith Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

(6) The following chapters and appendixes are to be deleted in their entirety and not adopted:

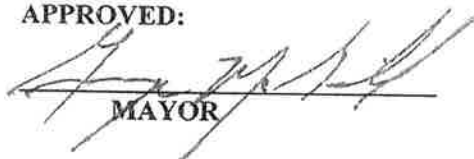
Chapters 11, 24-43 and Appendixes AA through AX.

SECTION 3: Effective Date:

This Ordinance shall be effective commencing April 7, 2023

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 7th DAY OF March 2023

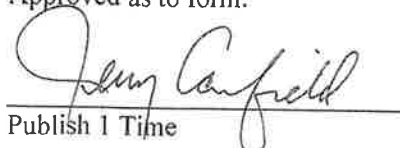
APPROVED:


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

Approved as to form:


Publish 1 Time