
KIRKSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Council Meeting Date: September 19, 2011

Agenda Item: 4

Report Prepared by: Brad Selby, Codes & Planning Director

Recommended Motion: To approve an amendment to Ordinance No. 11894 by deleting and replacing Section 2 regarding fire sprinkler protection for certain dwellings, in order to comply with State Law.

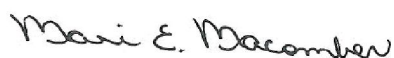
Background: In 2009, the City Council approved an ordinance, adopting the 2009 International Building Codes. Part of this code required the installation of fire sprinklers in one and two-family dwellings and townhouses. The Missouri Legislature had also passed a law that disallowed local governments from implementing this fire sprinkler requirement through December 31, 2011. City council asked that a special paragraph be included in our ordinance that endorsed this state law requirement.

This state law that was passed was a major blunder by the state legislature. The law was expected to say that one and two-family dwellings and townhouses be exempted from the sprinkler requirement, but it also inadvertently removed the fire sprinkler requirement for multi-unit dwellings (3-plex, 4-plex and above), that had been in effect for many years. The legislature finally recognized that it had severely reduced the fire protection for multi-family dwellings, and has now passed a law that corrects their mistake.

Senate Bill 108 was signed by the Governor and took effect August 28, 2011. It requires home builders to offer buyers of one and two-family residences and townhouses the option to install sprinklers at the builders cost. Buyers or builders of these types of homes have the option to decline or accept the installation of the sprinklers. This new legislation extends the law to December 31, 2019. It also restores the mandatory requirement of multi-family homes of 3-plex housing or above, to install a fire sprinkler system. This requirement is a major element for safety of the public in multi-family housing.

Fiscal Impact: This ordinance will require an expenditure of money to codify the wording with the Municipal Code Company.

Respectfully submitted,



Mari E. Macomber
City Manager