



MEMORANDM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Suzanne Arnold, Chief Building Official

Date: November 4, 2020

Reference: Consider the adoption of the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code

2030: Special Place to Live

Executive Summary:

The City is seeking to adopt and amend the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code.

Introduction:

The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) was developed by the International Code Council in partnership with the Pool and Hot Tub Alliance (formerly the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals and the National Swimming Pool Foundation). It is the first International model code to focus on pool safety. Effective September 1, 2020, Texas House Bill 2858 adopts the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code as the mandatory municipal swimming pool and spa code in the State of Texas. Coppell's Building and Standards Commission voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code on September 10, 2020.

Analysis:

The ISPSC expands on existing pool regulations and best practices to produce a comprehensive code for the design of swimming pools, spas, and other aquatic recreation facilities. It is written to work with the other International codes for topics like electrical, plumbing, energy, and accessibility. The ISPSC divides jurisdiction over pools between residential (Building Inspection Division) and public facilities (Environmental Health Division).

The content of the ISPSC overlaps and expands on existing regulations adopted by the City of Coppel. The fence and barrier portion of the ISPSC was adopted by the City in 2017 as an amendment to the International Residential Code. The City has also adopted and amended the Standards for Public Swimming Pools and Spas by the Texas Department of State Health Services. The amendments to the ISPSC, as proposed herein, work to reconcile the code with State and local regulations. The ISPSC also states that where a conflict arises between regulations, the strictest shall apply.

The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code focuses on safety in several respects, with key topics as follows:

- Securing the pool area with barriers, so that no one, especially small children, can enter the pool area without the owner's consent (or the proprietor's consent for public pools). Key elements include fences, door alarms, and pool covers.
- Preventing suction entrapment under water by configuring drains and equipment.
- Ensuring physical safety through elements like specifying depth requirements for diving and slide pools, ladder requirements, hand holds, accessibility features, etc.

Proposed Code amendments include the following:

- References to State and local regulations, and language to match
- Clarification regarding the potential to climb staggered horizontal fence boards
- Vehicular gates cannot be part of the fence enclosure (intermediate barrier required)

The adoption of the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code is not just a Texas mandate. It is essential to protect our citizens from drowning hazards in pools.

Attachment:

Proposed text for the adoption and amendments to the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code

Legal Review:

The documents were reviewed by Bob Hager at NJDHS.

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Recommendation:

The Community Development Department recommends bringing the adoption of the 2018

International Swimming Pool and Spa Code and amendments to Council on December 8, 2020.