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Subject: Fire Code Amendment Presentation
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Cc: Deborah R. Minnick <dminnick@suffolkva.us>
Sent: May 7, 2025 9:47 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Fire Code Presentation 5-7-2025.pptx
Chief/Fire Marshall

Attached is your presentation for this afternoon. I added a few bullets to the Amendments to the fire Code to reflect the proposed changes, inclusive of IFC 2021 edition, hydrants to municipal system unless otherwise directed, and the incorporation of the SFPC standard language under 507.3

Thanks for working on this.

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Overview of the ordinance to amend Chapter 38 of the Code of the City of Suffolk

May 7, 2025 - City Council Work Session

Why edits to Chapter 38 Fire Prevention and Protection?

The City of Suffolk Department of Fire & Rescue has experienced changes over the past twenty years with regards to organizations that provide services. In addition, being an all-hazards response organization, it is desired that the code reflect a name that is contemporary to the services provided by the department.

Finally, it is desired to have Chapter 38 to be in line with the Virginia State Wide Fire Prevention Code and the International Fire Code. It is appropriate that Chapter 38 of the Code of the City of Suffolk be amended to **reflect the name, organizations providing services, and amendments to the fire code.**

1) Desire to update the “name” of Suffolk Fire & Rescue

- ❖ The current name, per code, is the Suffolk Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.
- ❖ The new name, “Suffolk Fire and Rescue” is a more accurate name of the department, as “Fire and Rescue” is inclusive of all services provided.
 - All hazards fire department that:
 - Suppresses fires, responds to medical emergencies, provides advanced life support care and transport, technical rescues, hazardous materials incidents, marine and shipboard fires and rescues on the waterways, search and rescue operations, mass-causality responses, etc.
- ❖ This change is throughout the entire Code of Chapter 38.

2) Updating organizations providing services

- ❖ Sec. 38-35 will remain “volunteer fire fighting may continued to be established with approval of the city council.”
- ❖ Sec. 38-36 through 38.1 - Removed as previously operating volunteer fire companies and emergency medical agencies have all voluntarily ceased to exist and are not providing any services to the city/residents.

3) Amendments to the Fire Code

- ❖ Sec. 38-71. Adopted. – Adopts the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) in entirety unless modified in Sec. 38-73,
- ❖ Sec. 38-73 Changes in the (SFPC).
 - Incorporates the International Fire Code (IFC) – 2021 Edition (previously 2018 edition) inclusive of Appendices B, C, D, F, H, and I.
 - Removes previous 507.3 modification and incorporates SFPC 507.3 standard language by adoption in of SFPC in Sec. 38-71.
 - Modifies Section 507.5.1 to require fire hydrants to be connected to municipal water supply, unless otherwise approved by fire official.
- ❖ Modifications and amendments are updated to better reflect the state of the City in 2025 and maintains compliance with the SFPC and IFC.

Article IV. Regulation of Open Burning

- ❖ Staff reviewed this section of the Code.
- ❖ The Code is sufficient with regards to Sec. 38-108 regarding prohibitions on open burning and Sec. 38-110 regarding permissible open burning.
 - Enforcement of the prohibitions on open burning for violators is allowed and continues to be a focus of the Fire Marshal's Office.
- ❖ No modifications are recommended by staff.
- ❖ To report a violation, contact the Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office at: 757-514-4540 or fireprevbureau@suffolkva.us

Questions?

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