



CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENGINEERING DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Laurel L. Prussing and Members of the City Council

FROM: William R. Gray, Public Works Director
Gale L. Jamison, Assistant City Engineer
Bradley M. Bennett, Senior Civil Engineer

DATE: September 4, 2013

RE: Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

Action Requested

The Engineering Division recommends adoption of the attached amendments to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to comply with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements.

Background and Facts

The amendments to the ordinance are necessary following the issuance of revised Preliminary Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the City of Urbana. These documents and maps are issued by FEMA and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Office of Water Resources (IDNR OWR).

The City received its final revised maps and study on April 2, 2013. This started a six-month compliance period during which the City must adopt the new maps and update its Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to participate in the NFIP.

The last flood hazard boundary maps for the City of Urbana were adopted and became effective back in 1981. The Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance was last revised in 2011 when the Fire and Building Safety Codes were updated.

FEMA's Map Modernization Program is a national effort to update flood risk maps and convert them to a digital format. This digital format allows for easier distribution and more frequent updates to the maps by the floodplain administrators when there are changes in the floodplain due to capital projects or development.

Features of the Map Modernization Program included:

- Acquisition of high-resolution topographic data used to develop more accurate flood hazard data and floodplain mapping.
- Use of the updated flood hazard data and floodplain mapping to produce seamless DFIRM coverage statewide.
- Production of Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps on a countywide basis so that the county and its incorporated municipalities are shown on the same set of maps.
- Production of digital orthophotos that were used as base mapping.
- Conversion of Flood Insurance Rate Maps to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88).
- Implementation of a state-of-the-art, dynamic information technology infrastructure, allowing citizens to view the maps and study data via the Internet.

The new flood hazard maps for the City of Urbana and Champaign County are available on-line at <http://urbanaininois.us/posts/2013/08/fema-releases-new-flood-hazard-maps-urbana>.

Recommendation

The City must update its Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and adopt the revised study and maps in order to maintain its participation in the NFIP. Without this participation by the City, property owners would not be able to purchase flood insurance; and consequently, lending institutions could not extend financing for properties located within Special Flood Hazard Areas i.e. floodplains). It is recommended that the attached amendments to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance be adopted. The amended ordinance will adopt the revised study and flood hazard maps and meet all the NFIP requirements.

Attachments: Letter from FEMA on New Flood Hazard Maps

An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter Five, Article XI (Flood Hazard Areas)

Exhibit A – Red-Lined Version of Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter Five, Article XI (Flood Hazard Areas)