



City Manager's Report
January 8, 2019 City Council Meeting
Prepared By: Cleve Morris

Item#: 12.2

Subject: Review proposed Vegetation Management Ordinance and provide input to staff.

Purpose: To review a potential new ordinance to provide vegetation management for fire prevention in accordance with the State Fire Code.

Background: Due to severe wildfires over the last year, the need for better fire prevention has increased. The County has begun a process to adopt and update their fire prevention ordinance. The City has participated in that discussion. It is staff's recommendation that the City consider adopting new regulations to replace our current code. The current code requires 30 foot clearance and defensible space on properties as opposed to the new fire code which requires 100 feet of defensible space. Staff has prepared a draft ordinance to begin the discussion. In addition, staff has worked with El Dorado County Fire Protection District to apply for a grant to better enforce the new ordinance if adopted.

Discussion: The attached draft ordinance is proposed to begin the discussion. However, staff feels a certain urgency with this ordinance in order to begin enforcement this spring. As you will note, the ordinance requires compliance by either April 1 or May 1 of each year. It may be difficult to gain compliance this first year. The City's grant application proposes compliance over a 2 year period.

Staff is proposing we start with this review and continue at the next meeting and finally a public meeting on Fire safety on Tuesday January 29, 2019. This will allow more public input on the process and proposed ordinance. The ordinance would then be proposed for adoption in February.

Options:

1. Direct staff to continue with the proposed ordinance as drafted.
2. Make changes and ask staff to proceed.
3. Direct staff not to proceed with the changes at this time.

Cost: Cost to amend the ordinance will be minimal and can be absorbed in the current budget. On-going costs for enforcement will be addressed through the proposed grant and in the next fiscal year budget.

Budget Impact: None. All costs of amending the ordinance can be absorbed in the budget.

Recommendation: Review proposed Vegetation Management Ordinance and provide input to staff.

M. Cleve Morris, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Draft Ordinance