

**CITY OF WARRENSBURG
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Council Letter No.

September 24, 2018

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
City of Warrensburg, Missouri

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

SUBJECT:

An Ordinance establishing minimum regulations governing the safeguarding of life and safety from fire and explosion hazards known as the Fire Prevention Code of the City of Warrensburg, State of Missouri.

BACKGROUND:

At the July 23rd council meeting Staff discussed the implementation of the new International Fire Code. On August 13, 2018 there was a first reading of the proposed ordinance. The item within the code that is in question is as follows:

I.1103.5.1.1 Where alcoholic beverages are consumed in a group A-2 occupancy having an occupant load of 300 or more, the fire area containing the Group A-2 occupancy shall be equipped with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with section 903.3.1.1

ISSUE:

Options for the Council to consider:

1. Do not adopt this part of the code (1103.5.1.1). Council is allowing a known danger to continue.
2. Allow the business time to come into compliance by allowing several years (3- 5 years) to have the sprinkler system completed. Then Council has accepted the code and allowed the business to prepare for the expense over several years.
3. Accept code as written by the codes committee requiring 18 months' compliance by business. The safest for the public, but the owner of the business will need to install the system by the end of 18 months and absorb the cost in a year. The federal government will allow the business owner to expense the system on their taxes
4. Adopt the section of the code 1103.5.1.1 based on the business total sales is minimum of 75% food sales and maximum of 25% alcohol sales this business will not need to sprinkle their business. Issues with this is someone must verify the businesses are following the sales of food/ alcohol. What will the city do when the business is unable to meet this requirement and the business must sprinkle the building?

PRESENT REQUIREMENTS:

- New business that are restaurants classify as A2 type occupancies in Warrensburg and must sprinkle the building when the occupancy is at and over 100 no matter if they serve alcohol or not.
- Current businesses (A2 type occupancy) that are not sprinkled are being required to be sprinkled at 300 occupants when they serve alcohol.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This would fall under Focus II of the Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the code as recommended by the City Code Commission but allow the businesses more time to have the sprinkler system completed and come into compliance providing a safer environment.

Sincerely,

Jim Kushner,
Fire Department Chief
Attachments: 1. Ordinance