



Memo

Department of Planning & Housing

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Steve Osguthorpe, Director of Planning and Housing

DATE: February 25, 2009

SUBJECT: ITEM NO. 21: Flood Plain Administration

The City staff has recently reviewed the Flood Plain Management Ordinance (Chapter 9) and compared it with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the state model flood plain ordinance. There are a number of inconsistencies within our ordinance that, while not incompatible with the NFIP, impose a greater regulatory burden than is required.

Staff would like the City Council to refer the existing ordinance to the Planning and Housing Department to review and propose amendments that would maintain the required flood protection standards and more closely follow the intent of the NFIP. This process would take a minimal amount of time, would be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission, and would be brought back to the City Council for action in the near future.

Any proposed changes to our Flood Plain Management Ordinance would also need approval by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Staff would seek that approval prior to asking the City Council to take action on the amendments.

Staff has met with Assistant City Attorney Judy Parks, Public Works Director John Joiner, and Building Official David Brown who all concur that a review would be beneficial.

SO\clh