



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** October 14, 2019
SUBJECT: Consider Ordinance No. 3613, amending Chapter 98, Article IV, Division 2, of the North Richland Hills Code of Ordinances adopting the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code with amendments.
PRESENTER: David Pendley, Chief Building Official

SUMMARY:

In a continuing effort to update the city's construction codes and keep the North Richland Hills Code of Ordinances in line with current state minimums, staff brings forth for consideration the initial adoption of the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC). The proposed ordinance contains the North Central Texas Council of Governments Recommended Amendments, as well as a number of local amendments.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) is a new standard for the city that will provide consistency of construction across the DFW area, and can be used for both residential and commercial projects while meeting minimum state standards. The Regional Code Coordinating Committee of the North Texas Council of Governments took great care insuring the code contains the elements necessary to comply with the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) Standards for Public Pools and Spas (§285.181 through §285.208); as well as compliance with Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) 2012 Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS).

The adoption of the 2018 ISPSC falls in line with the Texas legislature's passing of HB 2858 making the ISPSC the official swimming pool and spa code of the state. This ordinance is a housekeeping measure that will reflect the state statute and provide a set of uniform standards consistent with other cities throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

It is important to note that although the 2018 ISPSC is the official swimming pool and spa code of the State of Texas, Section 214.103(e) of the Texas Local Government Code affords municipalities the authority to make amendments to the code.

Relevant requirements include:

- Covers all public and residential pools and spas, including activity pools, diving pools, interactive pools, lazy rivers, plunge pools, runout slides, wading pools, wave pools, surf pools and others.

- Addresses all aspects of construction and design; including barriers, entrapment prevention, materials, finishes, dimensions and slopes, exits and entries, circulation, sanitization, signage and depth markers, and energy efficiency.
- Addresses ancillary components such as suction fittings, filters, pumps, motors, heaters, diving equipment, ladders and steps.

Pool Safety Amendments Retained

In addition to the prescriptive details for the design and construction of swimming pools, the ordinance maintains the amendments approved by the City Council in April of 2016 regarding swimming pool/spa alarms and the Water Safety 365 initiative. The purpose of the Water Safety 365 initiative is to prevent accidental drowning through education, awareness, and increased safety regulations.

The pool safety items include the following:

- Mandatory alarms on all exterior doors and windows leading to swimming pool and/or hot tub areas. An amendment has been included that allows ASTM F 2090 approved latching devices in lieu of window alarms (see photo).
- Applies to single-family rental units with a pool, hot tub or spa.
- Mandates a pre-plaster/safety inspection during the construction of a swimming pool prior to being filled with water.



It's important to note that hardwired A/C door alarms are no longer available. As a result, language formerly requiring hardwired alarms and building power has been removed from the city's code of ordinances through this ordinance.

This action follows suit with surrounding communities that have adopted or will soon be adopting the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code. The Construction Code Appeals Board (acting in its role as the Technical Code Review Committee) voted on September 12, 2019 to recommend the approval of the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Ordinance No. 3613