



Date: June 15, 2021
To: City Council
From: Allyson Brekke, *Director of Community & Economic Development*
Subject: Ratify City Manager Proclamation to Continue Building Code Vesting Option for City Building Permits

Summary: Due to the ongoing negative effects to the construction industry due to the COVID-19 health emergency, the City Manager signed a proclamation to suspend Section 14.01.040 of the Port Angeles Municipal Code (PAMC), and allow building permit applications submitted to the City be vested under either the 2015 or 2018 Building Codes, until January 1, 2022. The original suspension of this PAMC ordinance was set to end on July 1, 2021.

Funding: There is no funding implication from this action. Building permit fees are the same for an applicant whether they vest with the 2015 or 2018 Building Codes.

Recommendation: Ratify the City Manager's proclamation that Section 14.01.040 of the Port Angeles Municipal Code is suspended until January 1, 2022 by motion.

Background / Analysis: On February 2, 2021, the City Council ratified by motion the City Manager's proclamation that Section 14.01.040 of the Port Angeles Municipal Code is suspended until July 1, 2021. In place of that ordinance, the Director of the City's Department of Community and Economic Development is authorized to adopt administration procedures that allow permit applications submitted to the City pursuant to this PAMC Title 14 to be vested under either the 2015 Building Codes or the 2018 Building Codes, at the election of the permit applicant.

Due to the ongoing negative effects to the construction industry due to the Covid-19 health emergency, the City Manager signed a proclamation to suspend Section 14.01.040, PAMC until January 1, 2022.

COVID -19 has had various effects on community members who are planning construction and housing projects in Port Angeles. Some have planned projects under the 2015 Codes and those projects continue to experience delays due to restrictions imposed because of COVID-19. Additionally, COVID-19 has limited the capacity and number of private professionals in the City to do the work required of the 2018 code revisions and the 2018 code revisions are estimated to increase the costs of new construction 10-15 percent. Lastly, COVID-19 has curtailed the City's capacity to get training relating to the 2018 code changes.

The circumstances described above are a consequence of COVID-19 and have created significant financial hardships for many developers and builders in Port Angeles, and equally have created significant administrative and operational burdens on the City's Department of Community and Economic Development.

Funding Overview: There is no funding implication from this action. Building permit fees are the same for an applicant whether they vest with the 2015 or 2018 Building Codes.