

One-rdg. _____
P. Hrngs. _____
Pgs. 4
Filed: 06-23-20

Sponsored by: Hosmer

First Reading: _____

Second Reading: _____

COUNCIL BILL 2020 - 150

GENERAL ORDINANCE _____

AN ORDINANCE

1 AMENDING the Springfield City Code, Chapter 54, 'Fire Prevention and Protection,'
2 Article II, 'Fire Prevention Code,' Section 54-32, 'Amendments and
3 additions,' by adding specific local amendments to Section 320 of the
4 2018 International Fire Code, relating to Landscaping Materials.
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6

7 WHEREAS, on July 2, 2018, City Council adopted the 2018 Edition of the
8 International Fire Code ("Fire Code") by General Ordinance 6463; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Fire Department regularly identifies opportunities for improved
11 safety and has determined that certain alterations of the Fire Code are appropriate to
12 meet the needs of the community; and
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14 WHEREAS, over the past 10 years, the Fire Department has noted multiple fires
15 beginning and spreading in combustible landscaping materials; and
16

17 WHEREAS, fires in structures beginning and spreading in combustible
18 landscaping materials have endangered the lives of citizens and firefighters and have
19 caused nearly \$700,000 in damages; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Fire Department recommends that to prevent future danger to
22 citizens, firefighters, and property within the City that the proposed revisions to the Fire
23 Code relating to landscaping materials be adopted.
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25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
26 SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, as follows, that:
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28 (NOTE: Underlined language is to be added. Language to be removed is ~~stricken~~.)
29

30 Section 1 – City Council hereby amends the Springfield City Code, Chapter 54
31 'Fire Prevention and Protection,' Article II, 'Fire Prevention Code,' Section 54-32,
32 'Amendments and additions,' Section 320, 'Landscaping Materials,' to read as set forth
33 in "Exhibit A," which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as if copied verbatim.

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Section 2 – Severability Clause. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted the Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.

Section 3 – This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

Passed at meeting: _____

Mayor

Attest: _____, City Clerk

Filed as Ordinance: _____

Approved as to form: , Assistant City Attorney

Approved for Council action: , City Manager

EXPLANATION TO COUNCIL BILL 2020-150

FILED: 06-23-20

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Fire

PURPOSE: Amending the Springfield City Code, Chapter 54, 'Fire Prevention and Protection,' Article II, 'Fire Prevention Code,' Section 54-32, 'Amendments and additions,' by adding specific local amendments to Section 320 of the 2018 International Fire Code, relating to Landscaping Materials.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Over the past 10 years, the Fire Department has noted multiple fires beginning and spreading in combustible landscaping materials. An estimated dollar loss of nearly \$700,000 was associated with these fires that included multiple structures. Fires in structures have endangered citizens and fire personnel as they burned and were extinguished. The Fire Department seeks to add specific local amendments to section 320 of the 2018 International Fire Code, relating to Landscaping Materials.

Section 320 Landscaping Materials defines types of landscaping materials and specifies locations and clearances where combustible landscaping materials may be placed relative to commercial structures and discarded smoking material receptacles.

REMARKS: The Fire Department has presented and received supportive feedback for the proposed changes from the Growth and Development Advisory Council, Building Development Services and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Submitted by:



David Pennington, Fire Chief

Approved by:



Jason Gage, City Manager

Exhibit A

Section 320 **Landscaping Materials**

320.1 General. Structures utilizing landscaping materials applied adjacent to the exterior of the building shall comply with the requirements of this section. Existing structures undergoing expansion or remodel are only required to bring new sections of the building into compliance with this section.

Exceptions:

1. One-and two-family dwellings,
2. Residential occupancies with 6 or less dwelling units

320.2 Definitions.

Combustible landscaping material/mulch: describes any of the following materials, regardless of individual chip size. Materials include, but are not limited to, the following organic materials: mulch and wood chips, pine needles, leaves, and cut grass clippings or any other combustible material.

Shredded rubber, although in-organic, is included as combustible landscaping material for the purposes of this section.

Noncombustible landscaping materials include but are not limited to: rock or pea stone and brick chips. Alternative noncombustible landscaping materials shall be approved by the *fire code official* prior to use.

320.3 Grass. Use of viable and living grass/sod is allowed at any proximity.

320.4 Clearances. Where landscaping material is used around a building, the following clearances shall be maintained.

1. Combustible landscaping material/mulch shall not be placed within 18 inches (457 mm) of any commercial structure. Non-combustible landscaping material is allowed at any proximity.
2. Combustible landscaping materials/mulch shall be maintained so there is not less than 18 inches (457 mm) radius of horizontal clearance around gas meters. Non-combustible landscaping material is allowed at any proximity.

320.5 Receptacles for Discarded Smoking Materials. Where combustible landscaping material/mulch is utilized, receptacles for discarded smoking materials shall meet the following:

1. Receptacles shall be placed not closer than 18" (457 mm) from combustible landscape material/mulch plots.
2. Receptacles for the disposal of smoking materials shall be regularly emptied.