

PUBLIC HEARING  
Proposed Amendments to City's Building Code  
Nov. 14, 2016

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor  
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor  
James Johnson  
Samuel Lyons  
James Marshall  
Ryan Rudegear

Members Excused: Jane Dlugos

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager  
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor  
Chuck Gibbons, Code Enforcement  
Sheila Boughner, Community Development Director/ Recording Secretary  
Harmony Motter, Finance Director  
Paul Bell, Highland Park Drive, Cooperstown  
Jodi Baker Lewis, Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce  
Jim Williams, Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce  
Gerritt Rex, GRex Wireless  
Matt Caldwell, Caldwell Signs  
Jon Haag, Venango Newspapers, Inc.  
Marissa Dechant, Explore Venango

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Mr. Gibbons explained that the public hearing was for the purpose of taking public comment on Bill No. 5 of 2016, "Uniform Construction Code." The bill was introduced and passed by Franklin City Council on First Reading by unanimous vote on Sept. 12, 2016.

The ordinance reaffirms the City's adoption of the Uniform Construction Code and establishes some modifications of minimum requirements under the UCC relating to fences, decks and awnings. It also repeals some irrelevant sections of the City's building code, plumbing code and mechanical code, Gibbons said.

The state Department of labor and Industry was notified of the proposed changes and approved those amendments as they make the local requirements stricter than state law, Mr. Spaid said.

Speaking on behalf of local, state and national builders associations, Mr. Bell opposed the ordinance because some of the proposed requirements would exceed the code book. One of

the reasons for the creation of the Uniform Construction Code was so that contractors would not have to learn a different code for each municipality, he said. He also noted that under the changes, the cost for a permit for decks less than 30 inches off the ground would “more than double.”

There being no further comments from the audience, the Hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary