

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: September 11, 2024

To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

From: Wayne Bergman, Director of Planning, Zoning & Building

Re: Ordinance 030-2024, First Reading - Amending Chapter 50 of the Town Code of Ordinances, Changes Relating to Floodplain Management

Date: August 9, 2024

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Town Council approve Ordinance 030-2024 on First Reading, regarding changes to Chapter 50, Floods. The changes are at the request of the Florida Department of Emergency Management in preparation for the use of the new FEMA FIRM maps later this year and are generally “housekeeping” in nature.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Florida Department of Emergency Management (“FDEM”) prepared a Florida model floodplain management code several years ago to allow counties and municipalities to administer and enforce the provisions of FEMA through local regulations with regards to flood prevention. FDEM routinely reviews local government regulations to ensure compliance with the FEMA regulations and with the updates to the Florida Building Code. These FDEM reviews occurred in 2017, 2022, and again this year. The review this year was prompted by the rollout of the new FEMA flood maps throughout Palm Beach County, which will become effective on December 20, 2024.

FDEM requests minor changes to the model floodplain ordinance (Chapter 50). These changes include:

- The effective date of the new maps is provided; and
- A “historic structure” is defined; and
- The start date of the “substantial improvement” program is provided; and
- A scrivener’s error made by Municode in the definition of “start of construction” is corrected; and
- The definition of “substantial improvement” contained within Chapter 50, Floods, is referenced as applicable for the Florida Building Code (this is a technical amendment).

TOWN ATTORNEY / CONSULTANT REVIEW

The Town Attorney has reviewed the proposed Ordinance for legal form and sufficiency. The ordinance was reviewed by Rebecca Quinn with the Florida Department of Emergency Management and by the Town's CRS consultant, Lori Lehr, for content and State compliance. The ordinance is ready to move forward on First Reading.

Attachments: Proposed Ordinance 030-2024 (Chapter 50, Floods)