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Atchison Updates Floodplain Code

(KAIR)--Atchison City officials have adopted an ordinance that would update the city's floodplain code, as well as regulate development in floodplain sections of the city.

City Community Development Director Stephanie Leif presented the proposed amendment to Commissioners during a public hearing Monday evening. She says the new regulation also updates new floodplain maps from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that will become effective in September. The last update was in 1978, and since a fair bit has changed since then, Leif says this was a good chance for the city to update their regulation and make definitions more current.

The meeting drew no comments from the public.

Leif adds that these new regulations can have a large impact on how existing structures in the city are remodeled. She says that if a structure was built before there were any regulations, is entirely in a floodplain, and does not conform to the new regulations, then the owner can only remodel up to fifty percent of the value of the structure. However, this can be done over a period of five years.

The Commission voted 4-0 to accept the proposed changes.

If you are unsure if your property sits in a floodplain, you can contact the city Community Development office at 913-367-5524.

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