



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of the City Manager

409 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
(540) 432-7701 / FAX (540) 432-7778

Kurt D. Hodgen
City Manager

TO: Kurt Hodgen, City Manager
FROM: G. Chris Brown, City Attorney
DATE: March 14, 2016
RE: Sections 5-2-18, 5-2-19 and 5-2-20 of the Harrisonburg City Code on Mulch

Summary: At its 2016 session, the Virginia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 736, which was signed by the Governor. This legislation, copy of which is attached, states in relevant part that the “The City of Harrisonburg shall not include in any local fire prevention regulations a requirement that an owner of real property who has an occupancy permit issued by the City, use specific landscape cover materials or retrofit existing landscape cover materials at such property.” This legislation affects Harrisonburg’s ordinance regarding use of combustible landscape cover materials. The proposed amendment to sections 5-2-18, 5-2-19 and 5-2-20 of the Harrisonburg City Code are recommended to the council to bring these sections into compliance with the newly enacted state law.

Background: n/a

Key Issues: n/a

Environmental Impact: n/a

Fiscal Impact: n/a

Prior Actions: These sections were enacted by Harrisonburg’s City Council on April 14, 2015.

Alternatives: (a) pass suggested amendments to Section 5-2-18, 5-2-19 and 5-2-20
(b); or
(c) Repeal such sections in their entirety.

Community Engagement: n/a

Recommendation:

The Harrisonburg Fire Department and City Attorney recommend amending Sections 5-2-18, 5-2-19 and 5-2-20 of the City Code as recommended

Attachments:

- Proposed amended and Re-enacted Ordinance
- Senate Bill 736



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Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.

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