

10-10-2018 Town Council Meeting Responses (#1)

ITEM #8: Open the Public Hearing and Consider Enacting Amendments to Section 5-56 of the Town Code to Incorporate the Revised Flood Insurance Studies and Flood Insurance Rate Maps

Council Question: This is my first time seeing this topic so it would be helpful to have a brief summary (i.e. no more than a few sentences) on what the flood maps are for and what it means (if anything) that our maps changed?

Staff Response: *A FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) is a flood map created from a Flood Insurance Study by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This map is used by the [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#) for floodplain management, mitigation, and insurance purposes. A property owner can use a FIRM to get a reliable indication of what flood zone his or her property is located in. A FIRM is updated when a flood zone designation is established or revised when new and more accurate information become available, such as a routine FEMA-funded study that keeps the FIRMs up-to-date or from changes in geography such as compliant development. FEMA has a process to perform these studies and updates to the FIRMs, which includes a public comment period and a Council Public Hearing.*

For more information, please visit the Town's Flood Insurance & Maps webpage:

<https://www.townofchapelhill.org/town-hall/departments-services/public-works/stormwater-management/flooding-and-drainage/flood-insurance-maps>

10-10-2018 Town Council Meeting Responses (#2)

ITEM #8: Open the Public Hearing and Consider Enacting Amendments to Section 5-56 of the Town Code to Incorporate the Revised Flood Insurance Studies and Flood Insurance Rate Maps

Council Question: How often does FEMA issue these letters of final determinations of flood hazards? Is it periodic?

Staff Response: *FEMA typically conducts these reviews every five years and sometimes more frequently as newer information becomes available.*