

# Cory Lewis speaks before Johnson City Commissioners.

*November 19, 2009*

Before a full house at City Hall in Johnson City, Cory Lewis addressed the commissioners and Mayor Jane Myron about difficulties in building and developing in Johnson City. "It's hard to get your crew together when you work throughout the region and remind them that 'there are 56 amendments to the International Building Codes that we have to remember because we're going back to work in Johnson City.'"

Lewis was speaking about the amendments that were implemented during the adoption of the updated codes almost two years ago wherein, 56 amendments that all go beyond the International Codes were also adopted. "We (builders) aren't trying to skirt the system and get out of doing something by eliminating these codes. We just want things to be more consistent with the rest of the region. If it's good enough for the rest of the state, it's good enough for Johnson City," said Lewis.

Bob Garrett (President of the Johnson City Area Homebuilders Association) presented a survey to the commissioners that outlined other cities of comparable size and their codes from around the country- including Bristol and Kingsport. There were two of ten surveyed that had amendments, but none more than three amendments. Each of those with amendments also added that there were specific cases that had developed within their city that dictated their adoption of amendments.

"There really doesn't look to me that there is a need for these, and unless I see something very convincing from the building department, I'll be in favor of getting rid of these," said Commissioner Steve Darden in closing the topic.

Commissioner Marcy Walker was responsible for bringing the matter before the commissioners and putting the codes issue on the agenda. Shane Abraham and Gerald Thomas also contributed in the presentation to the commissioners on the builders behalf.