

Trades Advisory Council Minutes
March 16, 2005

Present were Lance Hornbuckle, Gloria Adams, Jack Steakley, Rick Jones, Tony Smith, Andrew Ward, Eba Hobbs, Robby Ervin, Marcus Knight, Jim Tamulis, Gary Ragland, Jim McLean, Richard Smith and Mary Ellen Jackson.

Rick Jones was introduced as a new member of TAC. He is with T.W. Frierson.

New additions to the Permits staff and changes in the System Services organization were presented to the membership.

Mary Ellen reviewed the feedback from the community presentation including a handout of the slides used and discussed. The website was detailed including specifications for access. A draft copy of the upcoming spring newsletter was distributed as well as packets of the updated drawings that are also available through the website.

The meter inspection process was discussed as follows: Plumber acquires set meter permit ; New account is created in the name of the plumber or developer; Initial inspection is scheduled for the 11th working day after permit issuance (meter assigned to property must be in box in the ground to pass initial inspection); Initial inspection work order closed after passing; Final inspection work order will generate at the end of 90 days; Final inspection approval (including all mounting and yard grading) will generate closing of the work order. The final U & O approval is given and a new occupant may request initiation of service. An occupant who requests service prior to final inspection will not be given service in their name. The account will stay in the developer's name until the final inspection is completed. If a final inspection is needed prior to the end of the 90 day period the developer must call the Permits office to schedule. There were no questions or concerns voiced about this process.

Backflow issues were discussed. The membership expressed concern about several issues including:

Include type of material required for installation on drawings.

Add blow-off valve to drawings and add as blow-off valve on strainer specs. Discussion included necessity and importance of strainers varies according to locations.

Are nipples and caps required on backflows? Inconsistent answers received.

According to ABI when a RP is obsolete and has to be changes the line from the meter to the box has to be upgraded. According to cross connections, the line from meter to RPB has to be copper and they are not concerned with "what cannot be seen". Conflicting information being given.

PVC should be considered compliant on backflow installation or at a minimum PVC previously approved should be grandfathered into compliance. Member does not understand MWS concern because this is a customer liability. Suggestions to give requirements for new installations but allow existing installations that can be repaired etc to be grandfathered due to past approval.

Codes and MWS do not agree on material requirements and this needs to be addressed.

Specifications and drawing for acceptable inside installation of RPB are suggested.

MWS should require certification for repair or replacement of backflows with plumber required to fax a test report to MWS. Perception is that MWS is being redundant and could save money by allowing certified testing etc. cost of which would be absorbed by customer.

Test sheets are still not clear and difficult to read.

Other items discussed included:

Make the bid process easier by including requirements for repairs on the inspection sheet. This would promote consistency.

There is continuing difficulty in reaching cross connection. It was stated that 4562 should roll to 4600. Customer should select option 5 and the phone representative can send a service order to Barbara. It was stated that this is not happening. Members requested an updated listing of department phone numbers.

Future agenda suggestions were for an update on Grease Control.

There will be no meeting in April to allow MWS to address the backflow issues discussed in today's meeting.