

Trades Advisory Council Minutes  
October 7, 2005

Members present were Gary Ragland, Martha Segal, Lance Hornbuckle, Jim Tamulis, Robby Ervin, Roscoe Jones, Marcus Knight, Kelly Sloan, Rick Jones, Mike Gregory, Ralph Gregory, Richard Smith, Ilke Hauloser, Eba Hobbs, Gail McQuisten, Chris Remke, Hal Balthrop and Mary Ellen Jackson.

The minutes were approved as written. Martha Segal distributed copies of the new bill print. She stated on November 2, 2005 the new bill format would be introduced to our customers. This has been an on-going project. Questions about sprinkler and MWS adjustment policies were answered as well.

Mary Ellen discussed a study that was recently completed by Mike Morris. It compares the cost of development and connection fees for Davidson County, surrounding counties and cities of comparable size. Davidson County was considerably lower than the others surveyed.

The variance request process can now include split service for existing duplexes. Those interested should follow the standard process and submit to the Permits office for consideration.

KVB will be conducting a survey of the Trades Advisory Council members to discuss the present format's effectiveness and ways to continue to improve communication with the development community. A definition of TAC and guidelines for rotating membership will be discussed. The planning meeting for MWS is scheduled for October 19, 2005. Further details will be given at the December meeting.

The requirements for location of meter box installation were discussed. Rick Blackburn discussed the problems with the present policy in new construction. Hal Balthrop stated boxes in driveways can mean costly restoration for the Department if repairs are needed. In colder parts of the United States, meters are located inside the dwelling. MWS concern would be the availability of meter for disconnect for nonpayment and liability for property damage if the meter fails. It was suggested MWS have the customer sign a waiver. If a commercial customer is granted a variance to place meter and/or backflow in a dwelling, a waiver is presently required.

A discussion about sewer tap locations followed. Mike Morris stated it is preferred the tap be out from under the driveway. It was suggested that the stub out be on the lower side of lot and not in the middle. Lance Hornbuckle suggested future consideration be given to MWS assuming the ownership of sewer services as they assume ownership of the meter. Hal stated the current rate structure could not handle this. Feasibility could be reviewed during the rate study.

The fiber glass box presented at the last meeting was determined to be not much better than the current fiber glass box. Gary Ragland stated Bouchard is working on a bottom for the fiber glass box. After discussion, it was decided that the option of fiberglass boxes would be voted on at the December meeting. If implemented effective date would be April 1, 2006.

The fire hydrant meter ownership policy distributed at the last meeting was discussed by Gary Ragland. Several issues were raised including the flat fee or rate instead of the requirement to bring the meter in every thirty days for a reading. Other suggestions included calling in a monthly reading with requirement for a quarterly actual reading and adjustment accordingly. Martha Segal stated these suggestions would be reviewed internally with feedback on the agenda for the next meeting.

Due to continuing changes in guidelines, a review of the printed materials will be conducted in the month of November by various TAC and MWS members. Members will be notified of the time and date.

Richard Smith asked that consideration be given again to allow sprinkler contractors to pull permits. He also suggested that automatic flushing devices, installed as a result of the variance process, coordinate flushing requirements with the testing of the fire system. (Perhaps two times a year). Ilke and Richard are to meet and prepare something for the group's review.

Future items for agenda included Valve Ops and Bonds.

The next meeting will be scheduled in December in conjunction with the Xmas Customer Service luncheon.