

Trades Advisory Council
Minutes
December 15, 2005

Present: Gary Ragland, Mary Ellen Jackson, Jack Steakley, Ralph Gregory, Ilke Hanslor, Roscoe Jones, Andrew Ward, Jim Tarpy, Mike Gregory, Ken Gregory, Rick Jones, Chris Remke, Gail McQuiston, Richard Smith, Martha Segal, Pete Dickson, Jim McLean, Rick Blackburn, Hal Balthrop.

Mary Ellen brought the meeting to order and explained the quarterly newsletter would be sent out within a couple of days. Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and with changes were approved.

Jim Tarpy, MWS Administration, discussed the pending legislation that had been discussed by some members. Ordinance 2005-844 addresses a cross connections program for public drinking water system and is scheduled for 3rd and final reading on January 20, 2006. Hal Balthrop reviewed the need for a cross connection program that plans for the testing and monitoring of over 20,000 backflow devices in our system. Hal assured the group that all testers are certified including subcontractors and that equipment is calibrated annually. This legislation simply updates the code to reflect our present process and business practice including cost recovery billing for backflow testing and defines the MWS plan. The Code does not address repairs, only testing. Members were reminded that the testers do stop testing at the first failure in the twelve step process. It is the responsibility of the consumer to have a licensed person or master plumber to make repairs and continue testing prior to the return of MWS for final inspection. At the conclusion of the discussion, the group understood the need for this legislation. It was decided to have a meeting separate from the TAC to answer any other questions about the backflow testing and repairs.

The Agenda continued with a review of the basic backflow installation guidelines and requirements. The changes will be made and a draft attached to these minutes.

The policy for temporary and customer owned fire hydrant meters were reviewed. Changes included the suggestion from TAC to require an actual reading by MWS on a quarterly basis. TAC supported these policies. Effective date will be April 1, 2006.

As suggested by TAC in the October 2005 meeting, fiber glass boxes will no longer be accepted by MWS beginning April 1, 2006 for new or replacement installations. Gary Ragland will have a vendor present an alternative box at the January meeting.

Other information shared included the transferring of any outstanding balance from a closed and final account to an active account of the same name and/or identification. The Permits staff will begin calling developers to assure they understand this as well as the cost recovery billing for failed meter inspections.

MWS will have consolidated billing in the near future for those who have multiple locations.

The remainder of the meeting agenda will be continued at the January 2006 meeting.