

TRADES ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES
June 21, 2006

Everyone was welcomed. Each person introduced themselves. A special welcome was extended to our new member, Katherine Garland, and to Greg Thurman, visiting distributor from Hayes Pipe Supply. Present were Katherine Garland, Gary Ragland, Jim Paulus, Ralph Gregory, Jim McLean, Greg Thurman, Richard Smith, Chris Remke, Mike Gregory, Rick Jones, Bob Wingo, Gail McQuiston, Mary Ellen Jackson, and Marilyn Tidwell.

Minutes of May meeting were approved.

A mailing was done on June 14, 2006 to over 2,300 developers, contractors, and plumbers. The mailing included the Spring 2006 newsletter and updated guidelines. The regular quarterly distribution list includes 488 businesses. If anyone is interested in remaining on our mailing list, they need to notify Mary Ellen Jackson by email at mary.jackson@nashville.gov.

Feedback from Internal TAC Meeting

Distributor Membership on TAC-It was determined that since the distributors did not have a joint association, MWS would welcome a guest to attend meetings particularly when issues involved proposed changes in supplies and materials. The distributors would be added to the mailing list and e-mail information distribution list upon request. The TAC membership asked that this decision be reconsidered to allow at least one of five major distributors to attend each meeting. These were identified as Hayes Pipe Supply, Consolidated Pipe, National Waterworks, Volunteer Utility and Hughes Supply.

Fire Sprinkler Contractor Code-MWS TAC members will recommend the Department consider drafting legislation for necessary change in code to allow fire sprinkler contractors to pull permits for fire service only.

Compression Fittings on Service Lines-Mary Ellen read Hal Balthrop's email concerning the compression fittings on service lines. This indicates approval of compression fittings with brass ferrells. Mike Gregory brought two samples and asked for clarification. The group asked that MWS create a list of approved parts including the manufacturer and model numbers. Bob Wingo discussed the specification book maintained in Engineering Section. Hayes Supply will bring samples to Mary Ellen for consideration at the next internal meeting.

Curb Stops-National Waterworks now has the new curb stops which have the meter coupling made into it. Since there are several options of curb stops, Gary Ragland will generate an approved list of manufacturing names and model numbers of curb stops that will be acceptable. This will also be reviewed at the next MWS internal meeting.

Old Business

Inspection Guidelines- As of May of 2006 two curb stops are required for passing initial inspection and cement around frame is required for passing final inspection. Cost recovery billing for these specific items will begin on September 1, 2006.

Meter and Meter Boxes-The meter box specifications revised in March 2005 include predrilled holes in meter boxes and lids. According to Gary Ragland the distributors were not notified and do not have these in stock. The other lids will be accepted until further notice. Inspections have not been failed for failure to meet this specification. John Bouchard & Co is the biggest distributor of the meter box frames and covers. Aluminum hatch lids are approved for commercial settings.

Metro Meter Update-Metro Meter Service can install the MXU on a conduit if the meter box is oval. Standard boxes must have the bracket for the MXU. Large commercial customers are now receiving a copy of the Metro Meter Service inspection sheet along with their change meter letter. It was suggested that the inspector's name and all issues that need addressing should be listed on the inspection sheet as well.

New Business

The process for MWS notification and repair of commercial meters to bring the meter to standards for testing has been changed. The customer will receive notification that the meter could not be tested and advised to make changes required for completing the test.

Per Gary Ragland, meter readings are not required when requesting a change meter permit. Reading is only needed when the meter is physically changed. It was recommended that a copy of the customer letter be attached to the permit request.

MWS Section Updates

This is the last meeting for Bob Wingo. He is retiring from MWS on June 30, 2006. His knowledge and experience will be missed. Bob discussed the rationale used in determination of changes in development fees presently under consideration by the Council.

The number of faxed requests for permits has doubled according to the latest statistical information. Permits' staff is attempting to have these returned in 48 hours. The expected challenges with the new KIVA software are continuing.

Association Updates

Chris gave an update on the proposed sewer and water capacity fees increase. He said the developers are not opposed to an increase but they felt they were blindsided. He distributed the Ordinance and an amendment to the ordinance which lowered the sewer capacity fee from \$2,000 to \$1,000 and water capacity fee from \$1,000 to \$500.

The July 19 meeting will be at the MWS Customer Service Center.