

TRADES ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES
July 19, 2006

Everyone was welcomed. Rick Blackburn introduced his visitors, Adam Adcock, a MTSU student in the Construction Program and Josh Schulz, new member of the Regent Development team. Present were Katherine Garland, Gary Ragland, Jim Paulus, Ralph Gregory, Lance Hornbuckle, Ronnie Russell, Gail McQuiston, Lyn Fontana, Eba Hobbs, Jack Steakley, Ilke Hanloser, Richard Smith, Jim McLean, Rick Jones, Martha Segal, Mary Ellen Jackson, and Marilyn Tidwell.

Minutes of June meeting were approved.

The mailing sent on June 14, 2006 was sent 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.

Results of Internal Meeting

An approved materials list for curb stops including part numbers and distributors was included in everyone's packet. Ronnie Russell will work on the list of compression fittings to be available before the next TAC meeting. Ronnie had a compression fitting that will not be allowed for use.

Irrigation Meters on Existing Irrigation Systems

Lance asked about the irrigation meters and enforcement of backflow preventors' location on existing systems. This issue will be discussed in the MWS internal meeting and a separate policy will be ready for the August meeting. Service line materials will also be included in the separate policy. It was asked if there was a preference on split off domestic or new tap for irrigation and the answer is there is no preference but the customer needs to know there is no guarantee of water pressure if service is split off the domestic. When installing a meter for irrigation, the MXU device needs to be installed but the domestic meter does not have to be upgraded.

Old Business

Mike Morris discussed changes in Engineering's fee structure. Effective July 1, 2006 capacity fee for sewer was increased to \$2000 and a water capacity fee of \$1000 was established. Customer letters that have not expired will be honored under the old fee structure. If the letter has expired but 30-55% has been paid, fees will remain under the old fee structure. All new requests will be under the new fee structure. Mike also discussed a full cost recovery inspection fee that will be implemented in the future. This

will be a one time flat fee without any overtime included. If MWS has to return two or more times for inspection, there will be additional charges.

Gary Ragland gave a report on Metro Meter Services. There were 766 residential meters exchanged and 146 commercial meters tested and/or repaired in June 2006.

Gary will check on why there are four digits on top of meter boxes painted with blue paint and what it means.

Richard asked about his request that fire sprinkler contractors be allowed to permit fire services. A recommendation has been made and is going to the Legislative Office this week. This has to be approved by Metro Council. Mary Ellen will get with Jim Tarpy.

MWS Section Updates

System Services:

Lyn reported MWS anticipates approximately 600 customers with private fire hydrants. Richard asked if the fire sprinkler contractor could provide MWS certification info when a private fire hydrant has been inspected and/or tested. Lyn will check into this for feasibility. Danny Hunt will be invited to the August meeting to discuss “killing service”, private vs. public fire hydrants.

Customer Service:

Martha discussed the sprinkler adjustment policy that is being eliminated for budget purposes. Customers can conserve their usage or get an irrigation meter installed. There has not been a rate increase in ten (10) years. Customer Service also lost their backup phone service that was used to handle overflow calls. MWS' water quality will not be impacted. Martha asked Lance to provide her or Mary Ellen with Brentwood's letter regarding sprinkler adjustments.

Permits:

At the end of June 2006, Permits had a 53% increase in fees collected. On June 30, our office collected a record of \$902,000 due to the new fee increase. We had an 28% increase in permits issued, 85% increase in variance requests, and 82% of plans received in our office were fast tracked. Faxed permits were returned within 48 hours.

Association Updates

Ralph Gregory stated that everyone (plumbers) wanted to be kept informed of changes. There was a question as to whether 90 days is a sufficient period for final inspection. We are keeping track of calls requesting extension of final inspections and will review this to determine if 90 days is sufficient. Permits is also tracking reasons for failing inspections and will have results at the next meeting.

New Business

Group consensus was to have the regular TAC meeting in August. There will also be a special meeting held to prepare for the community meeting taking place in October. Rick Jones, Gail McQuiston, and Jim Paulus agreed to assist with the Community Planning meeting. Anyone else that would like to attend is welcome. The Community Planning meeting will take place at 9 a.m. on August 16 before the regular TAC meeting.

Lance stated that ABI has allegedly stated in the field that ABI must do re-inspections. Lyn said that MWS has the responsibility for the re-inspections. It was suggested that if a plumber is licensed and certified, it would be a cost savings to allow them to do the final inspection and give the results to MWS. Lyn stated that everyone has not been identified as certifiable. MWS is reviewing all contractual services at this time.

August 16 meeting will be held at the MWS Customer Service conference room unless notified otherwise.