

TRADES ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
August 16, 2006

Present were Josh Schulz, Gary Ragland, Kevin McCullough, Ralph Gregory, Lance Hornbuckle, Ronnie Russell, Gail McQuiston, Lyn Fontana, Eba Hobbs, Jack Steakley, Richard Smith, Jim McLean, Rick Jones, Martha Segal, Mary Ellen Jackson, Marilyn Tidwell, Mike Morris, Hal Balthrop, Alan Hand and Dan Barge. Danny Hunt, Ron Holt (Fire Department) and Manley Biggers, (Codes Department) attended as guests. Minutes of July meeting were approved.

**Fire Department**

Danny Hunt said that information supplied by licensed engineers or contractors will be accepted for fire hydrant maintenance. Inspections must be completed every six months. Richard asked about the feasibility of the fire contractor's test results meeting the FD criteria. Lynn will research the possibility of these meeting requirements and communicate with Danny prior to next month's meeting. She also will schedule a meeting with appropriate parties to discuss other fire hydrant flow issues. Ron Holt reminded us that when fire hydrants have reported low flow, the valves need to be checked by MWS before contacting the Fire Marshall's office.

Recently, MWS' legal interpretation of the code was reviewed and notice sent that a sprinkler contractor licensed in Tennessee could pull permits for fire service only. The service must be a dedicated line and can not come off the domestic line. Permits for fire/domestic combos still have to be pulled by a licensed plumber. In order for a sprinkler contractor to pull a permit fore fire/domestic combos, a change in the Metro Code will be required. The group suggested MWS consider submitting this change to council.

Availability letters sent by MWS Engineering advise customers to contact the Fire Marshall office to ensure availability covers fire services. If the Fire Marshall's office indicates the current availability is not enough, then MWS Engineering is notified and the process begins again.

Owners of private fire hydrants can request the removal of the private hydrant if the public fire hydrant currently meets their needs. The service must be killed at the main. Owner must petition the Fire Marshall's office to remove.

**Codes Department**

Manley Biggers expressed concern that MWS was not completing the final U & O approval process prior to occupancy. The situations facing MWS in allowing residential customers to sign up for service prior to U & O finalization were discussed. This is a situation that has been compounded by the fact that many mortgage companies no long require U & O letters for closing. Phone reps are handling this by setting up a final inspection if customers call in to put new service in their names. Mike Morris and Mary Ellen will look at the Codes screens and review the process. Codes will be going live

with KIVA around September 5 and hope that customers will be patient during their transition to this system.

### **Results of Internal Meeting**

Gary reported that the blue markings on meter lids are the last four digits of the meter number. This allows the meter reader to search in the hand held interrogator for the address when the address is not associated with a meter number. **Gary indicated they will not be doing this in the future.**

### **Irrigation Meters**

Mary Ellen went over the Procedure for Permitting Irrigation Systems with the group for feedback. Mike is gathering data on irrigation usage and will report at the next meeting. Capacity fees for commercial irrigations may increase if data warrants it.

Gail asked about installation date for the backflow preventor. Hal stated that the backflow preventor must be installed when the meter is set as this is our only means to monitor the installation.

Mary Ellen went over the Guidelines for Water Capacity Charges. Mike and Mary Ellen are reviewing the ordinance, subsequent amendments and exclusions for changes in guidelines.

Martha requested that both documents be placed on the website for our users when completed and approved

### **Old Business**

#### **Compression Fittings Approved List**

Ronnie Russell will complete this list prior to the next meeting.

### **Service Line Policy**

This policy is presently under review by the Legal Department. The policy will define who is responsible for each portion of the service line and is for repairs of existing infrastructure. It will also address recovery expense for commercial accounts.

### **Metro Meter Services Update**

922 residential meters exchanged and 94 commercial meters tested and/or repaired in July 2006.

### **New Business**

#### **Community Meeting Update**

Gail McQuiston and Rick Jones met with Mary Ellen and Gary Ragland to plan for the meeting. The recommendations were presented to the TAC members present. After some discussion, the decision was made to have the Community Meeting on October 10, 2006 at 10:00 am in the Customer Service conference room. A letter will be sent to all 2,000+ names on list around the end of September. All organizations are asked to put a

notice in their newsletters about the community meeting. Agenda items for the community meeting were discussed and approved. Scott Potter, MWS Director, will lead off the meeting. There will be a question and answer session at the end of the meeting. More information will be provided at the next TAC meeting.

**MWS Section Updates**

System Services-Sanitary sewer and Stormwater inspections are complete. The TDEC survey is complete. MWS has yet to receive the results.

**Association Updates**

NAPAA – Jack stated there are final yard grade issues when meter inspections are done.

PHCA – Ralph stated that suppliers want specs for meter parts so they can stock the parts for the plumbers.

TN Fire Sprinkler – Need specs and requirements for fire hydrants.

The next meeting will be Sept. 20, 2006 at the Customer Service Center at 10:00 a.m.