

TRADES ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
September 20, 2006

Present were Josh Schulz, Rick Blackburn, Ilke Hanloser, Katherine Garland, Jim Paulus, Gary Ragland, Ralph Gregory, Lance Hornbuckle, Ronnie Russell, Gail McQuiston, Lyn Fontana, Eba Hobbs, Richard Smith, Martha Segal, Mary Ellen Jackson, Marilyn Tidwell, Mike Morris, and Hal Balthrop. Minutes of August meeting were approved.

**Old Business**

**Fire Department Issues from August Meeting**

Lyn reported that Tom Cross, Metro Legal, verified a certified sprinkler contractor can complete the bi-annual mandatory testing of private fire hydrants for serviceability but MWS must be present at time of test and remains the documentation agent based on the ordinance. Any change in this process would require council approval. Lyn met with Ron Holt, Fire Marshall's office, and they will soon be implementing a two hydrant flow test for private fire hydrants.

Jay Tant, MWS, will be asked to attend the November meeting to discuss a water flow model which may be used as a tool.

**Codes Department**

Manley Biggers had expressed concern that MWS was not completing the final U & O approval process prior to occupancy. Since Codes went live with KIVA on September 5, Mike Morris and Mary Ellen have not been able to look at the Codes screens and review the process. This will be done in the future.

**Water Capacity Charges Guidelines**

Mike went over the new water capacity guidelines that were distributed. The guidelines state that new connections to water mains that existed prior to July 3, 2006, shall pay a water capacity charge for all units of flow in excess of four per acre not to exceed a maximum charge of \$50,000 per acres. \$1000 is charged for one unit of flow.

**New Sewer Capacity Fee**

Mike discussed the new sewer capacity fees. If developer/contractor has a letter dated before June 30, 2006 and is current with fee payments, old fee structure will be honored. If the letter is not current, payments are not paid within time frame on letter, or letter expires, the new fees will be charged. If a project is enlarged (more lots added), the additional lots will be at the new fee rate.

**Construction Inspection Fees**

In the past, the construction inspection fees were paid by the contractor after the construction meeting. Three years of data was reviewed to determine an average cost for the new fees. The new fees will become effective November 1, 2006. Fire hydrants are included in the subdivision cost. Pumping stations will be in addition to the subdivision cost. The fire hydrant, grinder pump, and pumping station fees are a one time fee for the project. The pumping station fee includes all personnel involved in the inspection.

### **Compression Fittings Approved List**

The three approved vendors for the compression fittings are Ford, Mueller, and MacDonald. Ronnie will electronically send the list with specifications to Mary Ellen and she will distribute to all TAC members. Flare fittings can be used.

### **Metro Meter Update**

There were 1,300 residential meter exchanges and 75 large commercial meters tested and/or repaired. As of this week, 84,000 AMR meters have been installed. We have budgeted 12,000 to be exchanged during the FY06-07 period.

### **New Sprinkler Adjustment Policy**

Mary Ellen distributed copies of the new policy.

### **Procedure for Permitting Residential Irrigation Systems**

Everyone received a copy of the procedure as follows:

- Customers installing water only meters will not be charged a water capacity fee, July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007
- Irrigation systems that are split off the residential domestic lines will be allowed to permit and install an AMR meter to be located in a meter box at the right of way.
- The service line material into the meter box and backflow must meet MWS specifications.
- Relocation of backflow devices will be waived.
- Alternate meter locations will be allowed only if approved by the Variance Review Committee.

Mary Ellen and Mike are looking at water only accounts' usages to determine the amount of flow to be charged after June 30, 2007. The fee may be based on the size of the meter being installed for irrigation. Ralph asked if MWS could supply the plumber with an AMR domestic meter when the plumber is installing an irrigation meter and find that the domestic has not been upgraded. This will be looked internally and findings will be discussed at next TAC meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **Community Meeting Update**

The cover letter, agenda and newsletter were distributed to everyone. The cover letter was approved. Several changes were made to the agenda. The cover letter and newsletter will be mailed to approximately 2,300 businesses in the development community. The letter and newsletter will be sent electronically to all TAC members for distribution to associations. MWS will also be glad to present this information to individual associations upon request.

All TAC members were invited to the October 2006 DROP meeting that will be held at MWS Customer Service Center.

## **TAC Members**

MWS will make up badges for TAC members in lieu of having to sign in each time they attend meetings.

## **MWS Section Updates**

### Engineering

- New fee structure which has already been discussed.
- There is a team working on eliminating transfer slips.
- Rick asked about developers being able to view the Engineering Tracking System. This is something that may be done in the future.

### Customer Service

- The Mobile Dispatching system will be implemented in the near future. Futuristically, we are looking at putting on the web so customers can create appointments/inspections.
- Metro Departments and Board of Education are now the guinea pigs for Consolidated Billing. We hope to have this ready for customers by the end of the calendar year.
- October 1, customers should be able to view and pay their bills online by check. Once the new credit card contract is in place, customers will have the option to pay by check or credit card. In the future, customers will have the option of receiving their bill by mail or online.

### Permits

- We are still struggling with KIVA and hope it will soon be quicker and faster.

## **Association Updates**

Ralph said his association appreciated the information that they received through TAC.

The Community Meeting will be on Oct. 10, 2006 at the Customer Service Center at 10:00 a.m.

The next TAC meeting will be Nov. 15, 2006 at the Customer Service Center at 10:00 a.m.