

TRADES ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 29, 2006

Present were Josh Schulz, Rick Blackburn, Ilke Hanloser, Jim Paulus, Gary Ragland, Ralph Gregory, Lance Hornbuckle, Gail McQuiston, Lyn Fontana, Eba Hobbs, Richard Smith, Martha Segal, Mary Ellen Jackson, Marilyn Tidwell, Mike Morris, Jim McLean, Alan Hand, Jack Steakley, Rick Jones, and Hal Balthrop. A welcome was extended to distributors, Ricky Dobbins of HD Supply and Matt McGowan of Ford Meter Box. Minutes of September meeting were approved.

Old Business

Community Meeting Feedback

All concurred the 2006 community meeting was successful and October is a good month to hold the meeting. The department's proactive manner concerning Stormwater issues was appreciated. Mary Ellen will e-mail the status of the Stormwater Advisory Committee to the membership. Providing additional parking will be addressed in the future.

Service Line Policy Update

Engineering has created a graphic presentation that clarifies the proposed legislation. Hal Balthrop discussed and answered specific questions asked by the membership. Line ownership relates to recovery of expenses. In addition, the state holds the utility responsible for any infrastructure within the right of way. Responsibility (not ownership) is more clearly defined in the new legislation for both residential and commercial customers. Mary Ellen will ask that this presentation be given at the January TAC meeting.

Compression Fittings Update

MWS uses flared fittings 99% of the time on the main (corporation cock). Historically, flared fittings have been considered more reliable. It was suggested that MWS review the configuration of the tap including the requirement for the loop. All this will be discussed internally.

Matt with Ford Meter Box said that fiber washers are being supplied in lieu of copper plug gaskets. Don Mason and Wes Gillette have a fiber washer that can be analyzed for feasibility. Matt also shared this information regarding flared vs. compression. Three different compressions:

Quick joint – can be used on copper (15% utilize)

Drip – 3 pc. Gasket (8%)

Pack nut – 2 pc washer gasket (75%)

Flared (less than 10%)

His research confirms that the use of the pack nut has increased. Flared fittings are used only 7.5%. Matt invited everyone to tour the Wabash plant where the compressions are made.

New Business

Internal Changes to Tap Scheduling and Completion

Everyone received a copy of the Tap Scheduling Guidelines draft. Hal reviewed the guidelines. Tap schedules will be set Monday through Thursday with Friday used as a catch-up day.

Permits' inspectors will be notified when System Services crew is ready for the inspection. Lyn will provide installation requirements for large and small taps. After discussion it was decided that MWS will provide materials for unusual tap sizes such as 2.5". It was stated plumbers are required to have tap date before they can get an Excavation Permit from Public Works. MWS requires the excavation # to schedule the tap. All guidelines for preparation for taps as well as

the tap scheduling guide will be emailed to TAC members for feedback before being placed on the website.

MWS Section Updates

Permits

- Still dealing with KIVA

Field Activities

- 963 residential meters were exchanged and 50 commercial meters were tested and/or repaired

Customer Service

- In accordance with council approval, sprinkler adjustments will be implemented July 1, 2007.
- Legislation to return to reading meters monthly is in the council process. Finance Department has concerns about funding should this pass.
In accordance with legislation, MWS can no longer accept credit card without charging the customer. Fees for credit card usage will be \$2.50 to \$6.00. Internet payment is forthcoming.
- Consolidated billing – Our top 25 commercial accounts are now in the consolidated billing program. If builders and/or developers have multiple accounts and would like to be a part of the consolidated billing, give your name and account information to Mary Ellen.

Engineering

- A change in the process of tracking developer's equity is presently under consideration by the Mayor's office. This proposal was discussed with several TAC members prior to the submittal. Basically, the tapping privileges for lots served by a developer's main extension will be tracked by the lot number. These privileges will last a period of 8 years.

Association Updates

Ralph said his association will be under new leadership in December as his term is up.

Chris Remke of ABC has asked to be removed from the TAC. Rick Jones will replace him.

Ilke will be gathering information from surrounding utilities. Mary Ellen has utility information that she will be glad to share with Ilke.

Holiday Meeting Schedule

All agreed to cancel the December meeting. We will reconvene on January 17, 2007, Customer Service Center at 10:00 a.m.

December 15 is the Customer Service Holiday Lunch. Everyone is invited to attend. Please RSVP with Mary Ellen.

Metro offices will be closed December 25 and 26 and January 1, 2007.

