

TRADES ADVISORY COUNCIL (TAC)

MINUTES

March 28, 2007

Present were Ilke Hanloser, Gary Ragland, Ralph Gregory, Gail McQuiston, Eba Hobbs, Richard Smith, Martha Segal, Mary Ellen Jackson, Marilyn Tidwell, Mike Morris, Jack Steakley, Rick Jones, Cyrus Toosi, Jim Paulus, Jim McLean, Lance Hornbuckle, and Hal Balthrop.

Minutes of January 2007 meeting were approved.

Old Business

Tap Schedule Guidelines Update

Hal is finalizing the written guidelines for scheduling and preparing for taps. Presently, MWS guarantees tap will be scheduled within ten (10) business days. A second crew will be added if needed to meet this deadline. Mary Ellen will verify time limits for scheduling are being met and review incidents reported by members.

Billing on New Meters Used for Construction

MWS standard billing procedure for new accounts is to add sewer charges at the end of a 90 day period. If customer applying for a meter service permit is aware the construction will not be completed within this time period, an extension may be requested using the variance process. MWS may allow up to a six month extension before adding sewer charges. It is the customers' responsibility to notify MWS and complete the appropriate process for approval.

Sewer Service Lines

6" PVC clean out is an access point that allows MWS to view the flow when problems are reported. MWS will review the types of cameras presently available that could be beneficial in reducing the cost of uncovering the main etc. Presently, MWS requires a 2" stub out be used in new development for marking. It has been reported that these markers are knocked down during the construction process. Use of 6" markers has not been considered due to potential infrastructure damage if disturbed during construction.

Materials Advisory Group Update

Drafts of the new Request for Product Consideration (RPC) were distributed. If plumbers, developers, or distributors want to suggest new materials, the RPC form will need to be completed and submitted along with the spec sheet, cost, etc. The initial review will be completed in a timely manner. TAC will be informed of products or materials that are approved.

The Carson Meter Box Pilot Project is being reviewed. Mary Ellen reported that the results of initial and final inspections were not related to the integrity of the box. CSC field activities is now conducting follow up. The results as well as a recommendation will be presented at the next meeting.

Codes Department Meeting

Hal met with Dale Myers, Metro Codes Chief of Plumbing Division, to discuss the issue of conflicting requirements for pipe materials. Metro can not be more lenient than the State and Federal requirement guidelines but they can be more restrictive on requirements. MWS has asked Codes for assistance in communicating the reasoning

for MWS requirements. Plumbers and/contractors will need to go through the variance process if it is not feasible to adhere to the requirements.

Capping Existing Service

If the meter has a MXU, MWS will cap the service. If the capping is not done at the time of the request, the request will be added to a list for future capping. MWS will be looking at Public Works' 5-year resurfacing schedule and when PW gets to a certain area, MWS will do the capping at that time. Meter boxes can not be moved until service is killed. A better solution will be discussed at the next internal meeting and reported at the TAC meeting.

New Business

Sewer/Water Connection Policies

Copies of the policies were distributed. The policies detail the present procedures. There are no changes, just reinforcement. Everyone is encouraged to give Mary Ellen feedback.

MWS Budget

MWS budget will be presented to the Mayor/Council April 26. The budget can not be discussed until after this meeting. We can have an earlier TAC meeting in May if members would like to be informed of the budget in a timely manner. Mike Morris will display the internet presentation given by Finance Director to the Council after the meeting.

Fire service line mapping will be included as an agenda item at the next internal meeting.

MWS Section Updates

Field Activities

- 1,250 residential meters exchanged and 90 commercials were tested and/or repaired.

Customer Service

- First Tennessee Bank has been selected for all banking functions in Metro. Online banking is forthcoming.
- Mobile dispatching will go live July 2007.
- Gary and Martha are looking at a RFP for the Meter Replacement program which expires in September 2007. Members can review the existing contract/RFP and make recommendations for the new RFP to Gary and Martha.
- There is a need for MWS to go back to monthly meter reading as it causes problems for the customers and for MWS.
- A study is being done on a new meter reading system which will allow meter reading by satellite.

Engineering

- Several water rehab projects going on in the 17 and 18th Avenue area.
- MWS has plans for several new pumping stations.

System Services

Going to a 2-Hydrant Test Pressure system. Powell Avenue is the pilot.

Association Updates

No association updates.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18. Unless notified of a change, we will meet in the Customer Service 2nd Floor Conference Room at 10 a.m.