



Electric Board MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
October 19, 2010

The Electric Board convened in a regular meeting on October 19, 2010 at City Hall, 1st Floor, Board and Commission Room.

Chair Gilbert Ferrales called the Board Meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Gilbert Ferrales, Randy Pomikahl, David Adamson, Robert Schmidt, Susie Simpson, Randy Walden, Ronny Williams.

Staff in Attendance: Leon Barba, Dan McNabb, Carl Thompson, Marvin Pace, Julie Kirby, Randy Haydon, J.B. Meiers, Joan White, and Florin Vasile.

Board Members Not in Attendance:

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the meeting of August 25, 2010 were approved on Board Member Randy Pomikahl's motion and Board Member Ronny William's second on a 6-0-1 vote. Board member Randy Walden was absent for the vote.
2. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** None
3. **CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING - None**
 - a. **Approve bylaws:**

ACTION: Board Member David Adamson made a motion to adopt the bylaws as written. Board Member Suzie Simpson second the motion on a 6-0-1 vote. Board Member Randy Walden was absent for the vote.
4. **DISCUSSION:**
 - a. Carl Thompson, Supervising Electrical Inspector, led the discussion on the use of romex cable as an approved wiring method in a commercial building or structure, as well as the intent of the ordinance language, Section 200.6(F). The Board discussed that the intent was never to use romex in a commercial application. Dan McNabb, Building Inspections Manager, suggested drafting an interpretation /clarification for the Boards review and tie the requirements to zoning and building types.
5. **STAFF UPDATES:**
 - a. Carl Thompson provided an update on the 2011 Electric Code Adoption. The Timeline includes providing a draft ordinance to the Electric Board in February 2011. Once the Board finalizes a draft ordinance, then it will be presented to the City Council in July 2011 for adoption. City staff is currently meeting with stakeholders on the draft ordinance.

Chair Gilbert Ferrales discussed the possibility of having Board workshops that focus on drafting the ordinance. Dan McNabb suggested the Board create a sub-committee of three Board

members. The Chair will let City staff know which Board members are interested in serving on the sub-committee.

Board Member Randy Pomikahl discussed special permit issues for service contractors. Stakeholders are having difficulty getting permits, and resulting in getting cited by Code Enforcement for not having a permit. He stated this is a very important issue that must be addressed.

- b. Austin Energy Design Criteria – Bob Seaver, Manager of North Distribution, gave an explanation of Austin Energy of customer demand load. Austin Energy’s requirement for new construction, is that AE does not want any diversification of demand load. For remodels and additions, AE looks at the load history of customer and makes the determination about load capacity. AE will evaluate if a service upgrade is necessary. Austin Energy staff and Commercial Plan Review staff will meet and resolve any internal staff disconnects, so there is one process for contractors to follow. AE and Plan Review will also work together to revise the Criteria Manual with the current process.
- c. Emergency outage – The Board discussed the importance of restoring power to customers in an emergency. There should be clear direction on who contractors can call during an emergency. Explanation from staff for the process and requirements for contractors and customers when they have an emergency outage.
ACTION: Board Member Randy Pomikahl made a recommendation that Carl Thompson create an On-Call Procedure and bring back to the Board for review.

6. ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gilbert Ferrales and was seconded by Robert Schmidt for a vote of 7-0-0. Gilbert Ferrales adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.