



Electric Board MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
April 29, 2015**

The Electric Board convened in a Board meeting on April 29, 2015 at OTC, 505 Barton Springs Rd, Room 500, 5th Floor.

Board Chair Randy Pomikahl called the Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Randy Pomikahl, Bobby Schmidt, Chris Wagner, Ronny Williams, and Peggy Simpson. **Members Not in Attendance:** Tasha McCarter and Randy Walden
Staff in Attendance: Carl Thompson, Joan Wilhite, Alan Small, David Tomczyszyn, Carl Wren and Julie Kirby.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes from the October 29, 2014 meeting was approved on Board Member Wagner's motion and Board Member Williams second for a 5-0 vote.

3. NEW BUSINESS AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- a. Annual Board Report 2014** The 2014 Board Report was approved as written on Board Member Williams motion and Board Member Schmidt second for a 5-0 vote.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Enforcement of 2014 NEC Code Adoption effective April 1, 2015.

Carl Thompson stated that his staff has not inspected any electric permits under the 2014 code yet.

b. Discussion on Permitting.

David Johnson, IEC, Executive Director, made a formal complaint to the Electric Board. He received numerous complaints from electrical contractors on 3-4 hour wait times at the Permit Center and a 2 week delay on faxed permit requests. He previously spoke to Cande Coward, Kathy Haught, and Greg Guernsey, but it has not improved.

Bob Bownes, electrical Contractor, made a formal complaint to the Electric Board.

- 1) City staff in the Permit Center and Austin Energy have communication issues
- 2) City staff should email/communicate with electrical contractors on a regular basis.
- 3) The Permit Center management should attend any Board meeting when an issue relates to them.
- 4) The Permit Center should inform contractors about the online permit process for child permits. The Board asked staff to email the information to the electrical contractors registered in Amanda.
- 5) The Permit Center staff should provide better customer service and catch up with their workload.
- 6) Austin Energy should schedule electric outages quicker than three weeks.
- 7) Austin Energy should improve communication and coordination from the Service Centers.
- 8) Electrical Contractors would like the information being presented to Council on the budget process.
- 9) Electrical Contractors are not happy with the High cost of new construction fees that AE is recouping, because it puts contractors over budget. Contractors plan to petition Council to repeal the EUC ordinance for recovery fees.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - Set up Town Hall Meeting for Electrical Contractors soon, and quarterly.

6. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pomikahl, and the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.