



## **Mechanical and Plumbing Board APPROVED MINUTES**

**BOARD MEETING  
March 26, 2021**

The Mechanical and Plumbing Board convened in a Special Called Meeting on March 26, 2021. Meeting was viewed thru Web Ex in a teleconference.

Board Chairman Cox, called the Meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Stephen Cox, William Harris, Joseph Cooper, Joseph Bowie, Robert Thornton, Bianca Tafares, Dave Nichols, Joseph Hernandez and Bobbi Jo Foster.

**Absent members:** David Dixon and Basheer Mohamed

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Rick Arzola(DSD), Charles Ablanedo(DSD), Chad Watson(DSD), Beth Culver(DSD), Rick Holloway(DSD), Jennifer Verhulst(DSD), Adam Smith(DSD), Armand Daigle(DSD), Tony Hernandez (DSD) Kelly Stilwell(DSD), Todd Wilcox(DSD), Kalissa Tozzi(DSD), Robert Stefani (AWU), Charles Deatherage(AWU), Eric Reynolds(AWU), Cory Harmon(AWU), Paul Kaiser(AWU), Reyna Holmes(AWU), Steve Villatoro(AWU) and Jameson Courtney(WPD)

1. **GENERAL CITIZEN COMMUNICATION-** Prior to the start of the meeting, 8 registered speakers signed up to voice their concerns and their encouragement of the City of Austin, adoption of the UMC and UPC Code Amendments. The voices that spoke to the board and staff were Guy Tomberlin (ICC), Shawn Strausbaugh (ICC), Jim Cika (ICC), Brian Rogers (IAPMO), Chris Lohr (IAPMO), Hamid Naderi (ICC), Daniel Nunez (IAPMO) and John Mata (IAPMO).
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the December 16th meeting was approved as written. Board Member Cooper made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Board member Bowie seconded the motion and passed 8-0-1. Board member Tafares was not present at the time.
3. **OPENING REMARKS-** Development Service Department Building Official Beth Culver began the meeting with remarks that staff has concluded their online stakeholder engagements and in addition, received many online letters opposing the Uniform codes and letters favoring in those codes. Back in 2017 City Council voted in favor to retain Uniform plumbing code rather than the International plumbing code as they were part of the International Residential code for residential construction. This was in large part from stakeholders at that time. She went on to conclude that either code can be adapted to our needs by consolidating local amendments and to rely on published code to the extent possible and use our local amendments to reflect the values of council and our community.
4. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**
  - A. **UMC CODE AMENDMENTS** –Mechanical Supervisor of DSD, Charlie Ablanedo presented to the board the 2021 UMC proposed changes. In his presentation the goal was to eliminate or minimize the number of amendments and return them to publish code. Amendments were reduced by more than 50% effecting 24 sections. Reasons for the amendments were council mandated, business needs as it relates to Chapter 1, options for the public exempt from permitting, clarification process and ISO ratings. After the presentation concluded, Mr. Ablanedo asked if they were any questions. As there were no questions asked, Board member Harris made a motion to adopt the 2021 UMC as presented, Vice Chair Thornton seconded the motion. Motion pass unanimously 9-0.

**B. B. UPC CODE AMENDMENTS-** Plumbing Supervisor of DSD, Chad Watson presented to the board the 2021 UPC proposed changes. In his presentation much like the presentation of the UMC, the goal was to eliminate or minimize the number of amendments and return them to publish code. Amendments were reduced by more than 50% compared to the 2015 adoption process. Reasons for the amendments were council mandated, business needs as it relates to Chapter 1, options for the public exempt from permitting, clarification process and ISO ratings. After the presentation concluded, Mr. Watson asked if they were any questions. As there were no questions asked, Board member Cooper made a motion to adopt the 2021 UPC as presented, board member Bowie seconded the motion. Motion pass unanimously 9-0.

5. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** No future agenda items were discussed. Staff did inform the board that Election of Officers would need to take place in April but did not want to bring one item for a meeting. Staff will convene at a later date to address this issue.
6. **ADJOURN** – Board member Bowie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chair Thornton second the motion. Motion pass 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.