



**Electric Board
APPROVED MINUTES**

**REGULAR CALLED MEETING
December 14, 2022**

The Electric Board convened in a Regular Called Board Meeting on December 14, 2022, at the Permitting Development Center at 10:05 am.

Board Members in Attendance: Christian Spies, David Johnson, David Deshaine, Gabe Flores, Randy Pomikahl, Ben Brenneman and Victoria Shope

Members Not in Attendance: Michael King, Rogelio Wallace and Delwin Goss

Staff in Attendance: Rick Arzola (DSD), Marty Starrett (DSD), Joshua Davis (DSD), Mark McClendon (DSD).

PUBLIC CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: There was no registration of citizens to speak at this Electrical Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes were approved for the October 19, 2022, regular called meeting on board member Johnson motion, board member Deschaine second on an 7-0 vote. King, Wallace and Goss were absent.

STAFF BRIEFING

2. **Scott Cochran-Introduction of Division Manager of Residential Inspections-** Scott was absent at today's meeting and we will revisit the topic at the next regular meeting.

DISCUSSION:

3. **Commercial Plan Review Update-** Plan review staff member Mark McClendon started by providing information that they continue to be on time with their electrical review and informing the board that staff had an electoral vehicle charger workshop with roughly 12 contractors in attendance and provided a power point presentation in which will be provided to board members in the coming days with interactive links and assistance on using the Austin Build and Connect portal. Also with coalition agreements with Austin Energy and the upcoming technology improvements, staff was able to work with Director Lucas to reclassify an open Mechanical reviewer position to a 4th electrical reviewer and will be posting this position sometime after the holidays.

4. **Inflation Reduction Act-** This will need to be addressed at the next meeting with Inspection managers to see what this inflation acts have in part with Development services and inspections and costs.

5. **Austin Energy Criteria Manual Feedback-** Supervisor Starrett provided information that no new updates have been provided and the next quarterly meeting will be in January.

6. **Disconnect Contractor Program-** Supervisor Starrett provided information from Austin Energy that there are roughly 50-plus electrical contractors that are registered under this program and since July, approximately 71 of projects have been completed. There are 25 new applicants for the next enrollment that will close on January 6 and training for this will be January 11. Since the program has begun, 1 has been expelled from the contractor program for not following procedures.

7. **8038 Suspension of Contractor Registration-** This will need to be addressed at the next meeting with Inspection managers to address this ongoing discussion. Board member Brenneman did propose a question to staff to address the building official for the next meeting that if there is actual evidence of a unlicensed commercial electrical worker performing electrical work, what steps are to follow, staff member Starrett replied to contact 311 and report it to Austin Code for investigation.

8. **Commercial and Residential Electrical Update-** Commercial Electrical supervisor Starrett updated the board that commercial electrical staff is about 86% in inspection as it was a drop from last month due to Building Professional Institute (BPI) staff training and probably will drop a little more in the

coming days due to Christmas holidays and vacations. Starrett hopes to be back up to 90% in January after the holidays. Residential inspections are not known at this time. Division Manager Scott Cochran will need to update the board at our next board meeting.

9. 2023 Code Amendment Task Group Update- Marty Starrett presented the board an overview of 2023 City of Austin local Electrical ordinance that the task group was assigned to work on. In his presentation, staff is still in alignment to adopt the electrical code in September 2023. The primary goal of the task group is to reduce amendments as much as they can and clean up and simplify the language as best as they can.

The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Definitions- Chief Electrical inspector was deleted as there is no longer a chief electrical inspector title with the City of Austin. Per the Building Official, Electrical inspector definition is being referred in the Building Criteria manual which provides the definition of an electrical inspector.
- Under 80.19(C), electrical is being removed from Electrical Engineer and leaving as Professional Engineer licensed.
- 80.27 Inspector Qualification is being removed as it already resides in the Building Criteria Manual (BCM)
- Under Local amendments 110.12 Mechanical execution of work, the word looping has been removed.
- 210.5(C)(1) Conductor identification- language was altered to reflect “at all terminations, connections, and splice points as follows” from “throughout the system”. Also, an exception was added to NM cable (romex) would not apply to the color codes to 1-2 or multifamily units.
- 230.70 (A) Service Disconnecting Means Location- Austin Fire Department wants this to remain in the ordinance.

The task group will be coming back to the board in January to get a board recommendation to approve the 2023 ordinance.

10. Development Service Center update- Service center manager Josh Davis updated the board that the service center has been doing well and has been able to assign out every application that comes in from customers that day and then work and research on that application for processing.

Currently in the process of re-working on the online webforms which allows additional tools for staff to track internally and allow more space for additional question for customers to so that they can gear away from paper applications. Also have been working closely with other groups to update processes for applying for permits, such as solar program and pricing. Most of the permit requests is being processed within a 5-day turnaround. Currently the volume of applications is about 300 a day.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Introduction to Scott Cochran- Residential Divisional Manager
- b. Austin Energy-address Austin Energy Customer Aid and Recovery fee calucations and shutdowns
- c. Austin Energy- Austin Criteria Manual update
- d. Austin Energy- Disconnect Contractor Program
- e. Commercial Plan Review Update
- f. Inflation Reduction Act- Impact with building in the City of Austin
- g. 8038-Suspension of Registrations
- h. Discussion and Action item for 2023 Electrical Ordinance
- i. Residential and Commercial Electrical Inspection update
- j. DSD Service Center Update

ADJOURN: Board member Pomikahl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member Brenneman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:49 am.

Minutes were approved at the January 18, 2023 Meeting on board member Johnson motion, board member Spies second the vote on a 6-0 vote.

