

**MECHANICAL, PLUMBING, ELECTRICAL, AND SWIMMING POOL
BOARD OF APPEALS
MINUTES**

May 10, 2005

Public notice having been posted, a public hearing of the MPE Board was held at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, 2005, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 555 Walnut, Abilene, Texas.

MPE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayland Schroeder, Chairman
 William McRae
 Curtis Watson
 Ron Smith
 Pat Watkins
 Anthony McColum

STAFF PRESENT: David Sartor
 Van Watson
 Thaddeus Iwuji
 Gary Boyd
 Toby Dyer
 Don Johnson
 Glen Bailey
 Alice Adams

GUESTS: Jerry Sartor

1. The meeting was called to order by Wayland Schroeder, Chairman.

2. The first item to come before the Board was the approval of the January 11, 2005 minutes. A motion was made by Anthony McColum, and seconded by Curtis Watson, to approve the minutes as written. Said motion unanimously passed.

3. The next item to come before the Board was consideration, with possible action, to recommend adoption of the *2003 International Plumbing Code*, with attached amendments, to the City Council. David Sartor, Building Official, addressed the Board members, advising them that a committee was appointed to look over the changes that were made in the *2003 International Plumbing Code*, which were different from the *2000 International Plumbing Code*, which was the last plumbing code adopted by the City. He mentioned that in Table 709.1, the Code was changed to require a 2" drain on showers, instead of a 1-1/2" drain, which was required in the old Plumbing Code. He said the most of the other amendments were the existing amendments adopted which the *2000 International Plumbing Code* was adopted. Wayland Schroeder, Board Chairman, stated that he was on the committee to review the *2003 International Plumbing Code*, and he had found a few typos that needed to be corrected. He said that on Page 8, Section 419 – Urinals, the "f feet" needs to be changed to "4 feet", and on Page 24, Appendix H – Mobile Homes under Section H101, 4. 18' needs to be changed to 18", and under the same Section, 5. the word "form" needs to be changed to

“from”. Glenn Bailey then advised that on Page 19, Appendix C – Gray Water Recycling Systems, the “City of Abilene Health Department” needed to be changed to “Environmental Health Section, Community Enhancement Division”.

After discussion among the Board members, Pat Watkins made a motion to recommend adoption of the *2003 International Plumbing Code*, with attached amendments to the City Council. Said motion was seconded by Ron Smith, and unanimously passed.

4. The next matter to come before the Board was consideration, with possible action, to recommend adoption of the *2003 International Mechanical Code*, with attached amendments, to the City Council. David Sartor informed the Board that a committee was appointed to review the new *2003 International Mechanical Code*. Mr. Sartor advised the Board members that the majority of the items in the Amendment Code Booklet were carry-overs from the adoption of the *2000 International Mechanical Code*. He did state there was a new amendment under Chapter 4 – Ventilation, 401.5 Opening location, which allows toilet room exhaust ducts to terminate in a warehouse or shop area where there is proper ventilation. He also called the Board’s attention to Chapter 3 – General Regulations, Section 301-General, 301.2 Energy utilization. He said the amendment from last year was carried-over, wherein this section was deleted in its entirety. He said that we are now required by law to adopt the Energy Code, so this deletion is unnecessary. After a short discussion, Curtis Watson made a motion to delete 301.2 from the Amendment Booklet. Pat Watkins seconded the motion, and same unanimously passed.

After discussion, Curtis Watson made a motion, which was seconded by Pat Watkins, to recommend adoption of the *2003 International Mechanical Code*, with attached amendments, to the City Council. Said motion unanimously passed.

5. The next matter to come before the Board was consideration, with possible action, to recommend adoption of the *2003 International Fuel Gas Code*, with attached amendments, to the City Council. David Sartor informed the Board that a committee was appointed to review the *2003 International Fuel Gas Code*. Mr. Sartor stated that just as with the IPC and the IMC, almost all of the proposed amendments to the *2003 International Fuel Gas Code* are carried over from the amendments to the *2000 International Fuel Gas Code*, and that there were no significant changes from the 2000 to the 2003 Codes. Mr. Sartor did point out to the Board that the committee had amended Section 406.4.1 to now require low pressure gas piping to be tested at 3 PSI minimum, as opposed to the 10 PSI that was required in the 2000 amendments. He went on to explain that during the 2000 Code Review, it was found out that the mercury gauge, which was the primary test instrument for gas piping at the time, was no longer available due to the sole manufacturer going out of business. The committee at the time had to find an alternate instrument and it was determined that the diaphragm gauge would be adequate. The information available at the time was that the diaphragm gauge would only be accurate at a minimum of 10 PSI. The 2003 Review Committee was presented with information that the gauges would be just as accurate at 3 PSI. With this information, the committee amended the section to require the test to be 3 PSI. Mr. Sartor then brought the Board’s attention to the amendment to 406.6.3 Test for leakage. He said it

had been the City's policy to require a permit and gas test on any gas system where the gas had been turned off for 180 days or longer. He said he told the review committee that he would contact the gas company and try to figure out where this requirement originally came from. Mr. Sartor received a letter from Atmos Energy, in answer to his inquiry, (copy attached) stating that Abilene is the only city that has this requirement. He further lined out, in writing, the manner in which Atmos Energy tests the gas lines and stated that if there are any leaks, Atmos Energy would not turn the gas on until repairs were made. Jerry Sartor, a local plumbing contractor, then addressed the Board, stating that he feels this 180 day provisions should be deleted because the cost just goes to the customer, and most of these people cannot afford this additional expense. Discussion was had among the Board members, and Ron Smith made a motion to delete Section 406.6.3 Test for leakage, in its entirety. Said motion was seconded by Pat Watkins and unanimously passed. David Sartor then called the Board's attention to Chapter 3-General Regulations, Section 301.2 Energy utilization. He said this was the same situation as in the Mechanical Code, wherein the City is required by law to adopt the Energy Code, so this deletion is also unnecessary. Pat Watkins made a motion, which was seconded by Curtis Watson, to delete Section 301.2 from the Amendment Code Booklet. Said motion unanimously passed.

Since there was no more discussion, Anthony McColum made a motion to recommend adoption of the *2003 International Fuel Gas Code*, with amendments, to the City Council. Said motion was seconded by Curtis Watson, and unanimously passed.

Wayland Schroeder, Chairman

Alice Adams, Acting Secretary