

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

**July 10, 2012**

Public notice having been posted, a public hearing of the MPE Board was held at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 10, 2012, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 555 Walnut, Abilene, Texas.

**MPE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jay Wyatt, Chairman  
Terry Williams  
James Wheeler  
Melissa Sparks  
Rick Kelley - Absent  
Kenneth Rich - Absent  
Ronnie Carlson - Absent

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kelley Messer  
David Sartor  
Van Watson  
Dwayne Williams  
Raymond Stokes

1. The meeting was called to order by Jay Wyatt, Chairman, at 4:06 PM.
2. The next item to come before the board was the approval of the May 8, 2012 minutes. Ms. Sparks made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and said motion unanimously passed.
3. The next matter to come before the board was the consideration and recommendation to the city council for adoption of the 2011 National Electrical Code with local amendments.

Mr. Sartor addressed the board and identified the significant code changes in the 2011 NEC and the local amendments as follows:

**2011 National Electrical Code – As produced by the National Fire Protection Agency**

- New provisions throughout the code have been added to address the installation of small wind electrical systems (wind turbines) to better address the growing number of installations.
- **Article 210.8.** All Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) receptacles are now required to be “readily accessible (they cannot be installed behind equipment, under cabinets or behind access panels or doors).
- **Article 210.12.** Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCI) must be provided the same as for new work when circuits are being altered, added or modified. This applies when the work involves only the replacement of existing receptacles.
- **Article 230.24 (A).** The minimum clearance for service conductors above a roof can now be reduced from 8 ft. to just 3 ft. when the area is provided with guards or is isolated.

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- **Article 314.27 (C).** Dwelling unit ceiling boxes with spare wiring for ceiling fan installation must have a listed ceiling fan box installed.
- **Article 404.2 (C).** Grounded conductors are now required to be installed at each lighting control switch. This is due to the potential for installation of occupancy sensors. Installation of occupancy sensors without the grounded conductors places service personnel at risk.


### **2011 National Electrical Code – Local Amendments**


The local amendments are the same as in the 2008 NEC with minor editorial changes to match changes to the article numbers in the 2011 NEC with the exception of the following:

- Several amendments have been added to address the local provisions for when and how aluminum conductors can be used. There are no changes to the enforcement of these provisions; the amendments were added to provide clarification.
- The local amendment to article 410.4.10 has been recommended for deletion. The local amendment prohibited the use of a pull chain luminaire over a sink or lavatory. The committee found no justification for this prohibition and therefore proposed not reinstating the amendment.
- The local amendment to Article 680.23 has been recommended for deletion. The local amendment limited the voltage of wiring within 5 ft. of the inside of a swimming pool wall to no more than 12 volt. The committee felt this was overly restrictive since the code as written provides safe wiring methods for higher voltages.
- Due to state licensing, the review committee has recommended deletion of several licensing categories which there are no longer any active licenses, and since in the 2008 adoption the City of Abilene no longer issues any new licenses; these categories are no longer needed.
- Also it is recommended to delete the Electrical Sub Committee from the City Ordinance since the sub committee's function was to recommend issuance of new license and the issuance of new licenses was discontinued in the 2008 adoption.

After discussion a motion was made by Ms. Sparks to recommend adoption of the 2011 NEC with the local amendments to council for adoption. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

4. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

  
Jay Wyatt, Chairman

  
David Sartor, Acting Secretary