

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

August 14, 2012

Public notice having been posted, a public hearing of the MPE Board was held at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 14, 2012, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 555 Walnut, Abilene, Texas.

MPE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jay Wyatt, Chairman
Terry Williams-absent
James Wheeler
Melissa Sparks
Pete Torres
Kenneth Rich
Frank Perez

STAFF PRESENT: Stanley Smith
David Sartor
Dwayne Williams
Raymond Stokes

1. The meeting was called to order by Jay Wyatt, Chairman, at 4:02 PM.
2. The next item to come before the board was the approval of the July 10, 2012 minutes. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Rich 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 stated that in addition to the amendments approved by the board at the July 10, 2012 meeting, staff was bringing additional local amendments to delete all local licensing provisions. He stated this was prompted by a recent issue which came up related to exemptions to the state licensing law which would be in conflict with the local licensing provisions. State law has exemptions from electrical licensing for properly state licensed mechanical and plumbing contractors as well as other types of state licenses, one of which would be state licensed water well driller and pump installer. He further stated that since the time state licensing went into effect the City of Abilene has been eliminating portions of our local licensing program and the number of current locally licensed electricians is now at only four. Of those three are master licenses and one is a journeyman. Two of the masters already hold a state master electrician license and the third is a contractor from Indianapolis IN. who has not been back to Abilene for many years but still maintains the license. Mr. Sartor stated he has contacted the contractor from Indianapolis and informed him of the proposed discontinuation of the program, and he has contacted one of the two other local masters. His intent is to contact each of the license holders as soon as possible. Mr. Wyatt asked what steps the license holders who did not already hold a state license would have to take to obtain a state license. Mr. Sartor stated that in the event a municipality discontinues a local licensing program any person who held a current license could make application to


the state and obtain an equivalent state license. Application must be made within 90 days of the date the municipality discontinued their program. The applicant would not be required to take a test to obtain the state license under this provision.


Mr. Sartor stated that several definitions were being proposed for deletion (definition of master, journeyman, apprentice, sign, maintenance and residential electrician) to prevent a conflict with the definitions in the state licensing law. The final item was a deletion of extensions requirements in section 306(b) "Temporary Connections". Mr. Sartor stated the provision was not being applied and staff found no reason to leave it in the ordinance.

At this point Mr. Wyatt opened the public hearing and seeing no one wishing to speak closed the public hearing and opened the issue for board discussion.

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. Torres and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

4. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:24 PM.



Terry Williams, Chairman

Van Watson, Acting Secretary