

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

February 11, 2014

Public notice having been posted, a public hearing of the MPE Board was held at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 11, 2014 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 555 Walnut, Abilene, Texas.

MPE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Torres
Kenneth Rich
Melissa Sparks
Terry Williams
James Wheeler
Frank Perez
Gene Isenburg

STAFF PRESENT: Kelley Messer
David Sartor
Van Watson

GUESTS: Maria Torres
Jessica Lenius

1. The meeting was called to order by Terry Williams, at 4:05 PM.
2. The first item on the agenda was the approval of the December 10, 2013 minutes. Mr. Rich made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Perez seconded the motion and said motion unanimously passed.
3. The next matter to come before the board was the consideration regarding recommendation for adoption of the 2012 Mechanical, Plumbing, and Fuel Gas Codes with Local Amendments. Mr. Sartor addressed the board and informed the Board of the significant code changes made in each of the codes.
4. Building Official, Mr. Sartor spoke of the recommendations for adoption of the 2012 Mechanical, Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code with local amendments. Many of the 2012 changes modifications and clarifications. Mr. Sartor stated the 2012 Energy Code now requires blower door test to show the air tightness of the building envelope and mechanical system. However, the visual test is still an option and is what is performed under the current code. He also informed the Board that the committee adopted the 2012 IECC but used requirements from the 2009 which will keep the city in line with state requirements.

Mr. Sartor stated the mechanical code has increased the support spacing from 4 ft. to 12 ft. for dryer exhaust duct and now requires mechanical fasteners. The screws cannot extend more than 1/8" into the inside of the duct. Also, the local amendment of 35 ft. length of a drier vent has been removed since the 2012 IMC now allows 35 ft. instead of 25 ft.

The minimum clearance from intake openings and property lines for exhaust openings is now listed in the 2012 IRC.

The energy code now requires a system commissioning report for commercial mechanical systems. There are two exceptions to this requirement. If a mechanical system has a total capacity less than 480,000 BTU for cooling and 600,000 BTU for heating and systems serving dwelling units, sleeping units in hotels, motels boarding houses or similar units.

Field applied grease duct enclosures prohibit partial enclosure for the sole purpose of reducing clearance from combustibles. It is still allowed with a complete enclosure system.

Conveyor type pizza ovens, when they comply with section 17 of UL 710B, no longer require a Type I hood.

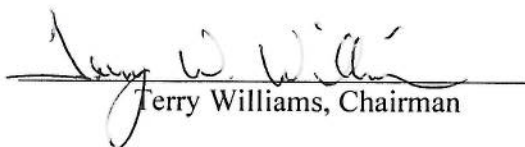
There is a new exception that allows venting system to pass through plenums when they are installed in compliance with one of the three methods listed in section 601.4 of the 2012 IMC.

Mr. Wheeler asked Mr. Sartor if the Board is still looking at requests of churches asking to use Type II hoods in lieu of Type I. Mr. Sartor stated that the Board had directed staff to look at these requests and it seems to be working well.

Regarding the plumbing code, Mr. Sartor stated that a safety pan is no longer required on tankless water heaters.

The provisions for gray-water recycling systems has been moved from the appendix and added in the text of the code in chapter 30.

5. Mr. Sartor concluded and asked if the Board had any questions. Mr. Rich asked what the clearance is when a hood penetrates a roof. Mr. Sartor stated 18 inches.
6. Mr. Williams opened the public hearing. There being no one to speak, Mr. Williams closed the public hearing.
7. Mr. Williams asked for discussion or a motion. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the adoption of the 2012 Mechanical, Plumbing and Fuel Gas Codes. Mr. Rich seconded and said motion unanimously passed.
8. Mr. Williams called for adjournment at 4:20 P.M.


Terry Williams, Chairman


David Sartor, Acting Secretary