

South Central Regional Construction Code Council Meeting
Thursday, May 10, 2007
Time: 2:00PM

Location: St. James Parish Courthouse Annex
2631 La. 20 West, Vacherie, La. 70090

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance were:

Michael Wich (Terrebonne)
Debbie Moore (Lafourche)
Donald Nash (St. James)
Pat Gordon – Mitch McDonald, proxy (Terrebonne)
John Boudreaux (Assumption)

Member absent:

Lou Ellen Vaughn (St. John)

It was moved by Donald Nash, seconded by Debbie Moore to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2007 Building Code Council Meeting. Motion carried.

The next item for discussion was a presentation by Terrebonne Parish Fire Chiefs. Mr. Daniel Scott, with the City of Houma and Mr. Jerry Gautreaux of Bayou Cane had concerns that there is nothing in place for the fire departments per building code. Fire Departments also do inspections and need to be notified. They would like to see a system where everyone can work together.

Mr. Wich agreed, stating he would like to meet with the gentlemen to figure a way that everyone will get the necessary information needed.

The next item for discussion was Mr. Dennis Kelley concerning foundation suggestions. Mr. Kelley suggests that instead of needing an engineer stamp of approval possibly there could be more rigid guidelines by building a database or get all soil mappings.

Mr. John Boudreaux entered during Mr. Kelley's presentation at 2:50pm.

Mr. Randy Noel stepped up and spoke on the Jefferson Parish system. Discussion ensued on working with Nicholls State University or looking for grant money to put together a database of bore samples.

Mr. Boudreaux suggests not passing the cost to the public. Perhaps it could be required in the development ordinance to include soil borings. Perhaps it could be offered to the home owner as an option.

The next item of business was Commercial Permit Costs. Mr. Wich did some research and found this would put us in the same price range as Lafayette. Mr. Wich recommended the following:

Commercial Permit Cost - .45¢ First 25,000 square feet
.20¢ any additional

Mr. Wich made a motion to go to each council to change, seconded by Mr. McDonald. Motion carried.

Storage Sheds, Residential - .46¢ First 1,000 square feet
.20¢ any additional

There was a brief discussion.

Mr. Wich made a motion to go to each council to change, seconded by Mr. McDonald. Motion carried.

The next item for discussion was an update on collection fees due to SCPDC. Ms. Dawn Allemand presented the council with a financial analysis. There was then a brief discussion.

The next item for discussion was IBTS. Mr. Wich presented to the council that the contract with IBTS costs SCPDC \$3000 per day. SCPDC inspectors have more certificates than IBTS. Mr. Wich stated that by law he is now able to function as the CBO for the next 3 years. He proposed that in order to cut cost that the council allows him to function as the CBO and to keep the IBTS trainer. Discussion ensued.

It was moved by Mr. Wich, seconded by Mr. McDonald to give 30 days notice to IBTS to end the current contract. Motion carried.

Mr. Wich requested that all permits, including third party permits go through SCPDC.

Mr. Wich informed the council that on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at Nicholls State and on Thursday, May 17, 2007 at the River Parish Vo-tech, there would be a question and answer session from 3-8pm. The sessions will cover a variety of topics, including home design, building and construction. Ads were placed in all newspapers and SCPDC notified offices about the meetings.

The next item up for discussion was how to charge permit fees for modular homes? Mr. Wich suggested .46¢ per square foot.

The next two items on the agenda, plan review fees on pre-engineered residential metal storage buildings and soil sample costs were previously discussed and appropriate action was taken.

The next item up for discussion was information needed from SCPDC in parish offices. Mr. Wich informed the council that some parishes get the information to SCPDC daily and for others it takes a while. Mr. Wich requested that each office get the information to SCPDC as quickly as possible.

Discussion ensued on permitting software. Mr. Wich stated that SCPDC is continuing to meet with vendors trying to find software that can cater to the region's particular need.

Mr. McDonald commented that Terrebonne Parish is in favor of purchasing software that could be up quickly. However it may better meet the needs of the region if a vendor developed one for the region.

Mr. Wich reported that all of the parishes should have their scanners. Terrebonne is up and running, Lafourche will have to check on it and St. James did not believe they had theirs.

The final item up for discussion was any other business not previously discussed. Mr. McDonald suggested that SCPDC get a stamp for plan review, log changes in a form and do every page. Mr. Wich informed him that SCPDC was actually working on that.

There being no further information to be discussed, it was moved by Mr. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Wich to adjourn.