

South Central Regional Construction Code Council Meeting
Thursday, June 14, 2007
Time: 2:00PM

Location: St. John the Baptist
Percy Hebert Building
St. John Council Chambers
1801 W. Airline Highway, Laplace La. 70068

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance were:

Michael Wich (SCPDC)
Pat Gordon – Mitch McDonald, proxy (Terrebonne)
Lou Ellen Vaughn (St. John)
Donald Nash (St. James)
John Boudreaux (Assumption)
Cullen Curole – Debbie Moore, proxy (Lafourche)

No members were absent.

1. Review and adopt minutes of May 10, 2007 meeting:

Minutes for this meeting were not available. It was moved by Mr. Nash, seconded by Mitch McDonald to review and approve at our next meeting. Motion carried.

2. Update by SCPDC IT Department:

Ryan Hutchinson informed the council that all printers and scanners should be delivered and operable to all parishes no later than next week.

Software – SCPDC has not found anything that will meet the needs of what we are trying to accomplish. There is a company, CRW that has an excellent product and will work well for what Terrebonne wants to do. Unfortunately it won't fit with the needs of SCPDC. Cost for simple installation for the parish is somewhere around \$300,000.00 and will take anywhere from 6 months to 1 year to get started. SCPDC has come up with an in house program that will enable us to begin tracking permits.

The program SCPDC is working on developing requirements where our applications can work with other vendors. This way each Parish can choose a program that works best for them. All they have to do is have the vendor contact SCPDC and Mr. Hutchinson will work with them as needed. Discussion ensued.

Debbie Moore with Lafourche entered during Mr. Hutchinson's update at 2:15pm.

It was discussed that SCPDC and the state will share information. They are both working on similar projects. Mr. Hutchinson requested from the state to appoint one person on this project. He feels it would be a lot easier to share information. Curt McCarty, with the state, informed Mr. Hutchinson to email him and he would be happy to help with anything needed.

3. Presentation by Michael Williams on Modular Homes:

Mr. Jerry Ashker was there to speak with the council concerning wind codes on modular homes. They found a manufacture in Indiana that can meet the codes. If any parish is interested he has a slide presentation and information and is willing to share. It will take a couple of hours but he would be happy to meet with any interested parties.

4. Permission to add a receptionist:

Mr. Wich explained due to the high call volume from all the parishes we have had a young lady in the office helping out. She is temporary employee of SCPDC and has been a tremendous help to us. Mr. Wich informed the council he does realize he will have to place an add for the job, per requirements. Mr. Wich feels adding this permanent position will also add a tremendous amount of customer service. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Boudreaux suggested he would like something presented in the financial breakdown showing we can justify the fees.

It was moved by Mr. Donald Nash to bring back this issue at our next meeting. Mr. Mitch McDonald Seconded. All in favor: Debbie Moore, Donald Nash, Mitch McDonald, Lou Ellen Vaughn, John Boudreaux. Opposed: Michael Wich

5. Permit and Financial Update:

Ms. Dawn Allemand presented the council with a financial analysis. We are not receiving revenues to cover cost. The overhead is not normally this large. SCPDC purchased a sound insulated wall to divide a larger meeting room so the inspectors can use for training, the cost of the wall was \$29,000.00. SCPDC is also looking into purchasing vehicles for the inspectors to cut cost on mileage fees. There was a brief discussion.

6. Possible development of an appeals board:

Mr. Wich explains he has had people raise concerns that the code council serves as the appeals board. He is in agreement with these concerns and would like to form a separate appeals board. Mr. Wich then read from the administrative section. He asked the council their opinion of forming such a board using people with the background and knowledge from each parish. Mr. Boudreaux questioned if there was enough people interested in serving on such a board and discussion ensued.

It was moved by Mitch McDonald and seconded by Donald Nash to have Mr. Wich continue to investigate and report to the council his findings. Motion carried.

7. Foundation Requirements Discussion:

Mr. Wich explains foundation issues have been the biggest stumbling block from the start for all concerned. From a builders point we have not come up with a solution to eliminate the problem. Getting soil maps and samples will all take a while to develop.

Mr. Wich suggests that until a better system is in play we should allow the contractors to go back, take responsibility as they did before, and pour foundations before the code went into effect. Up to date there has been no problem with the foundations just a lack of soil data. Mr. Wich can release several plans that are being held up from his office if we do away with soil sampling and he read from the code. Mr. Wich pointed out this is just a temporary solution. We do not want to hurt our builders in the region. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by Mitch McDonald to do away with soil borings, seconded by Donald Nash. Motion carried.

8. Checklist for TPP and Review Process turnaround:

Mr. Wich informed the council a lot of third parties are not requiring the information that SCPDC requires concerning foundations. Mr. Wich feels by the previous vote, we just eliminated that issue. Mr. Wich has come up with a checklist where if a customer has a plan that was reviewed by a third party provider, they just need to fill out the checklist and within twenty-four hours SCPDC will have the plans returned back to the parish.

Mr. Wich is trying to eliminate the perception that SCPDC is reviewing the third party plan review. Mr. Wich stated all SCPDC is trying to do is show all information has been submitted and requirements have been discussed with their client. Discussion ensued.

Mr. McDonald stated he is having a hard time verifying certified third party providers. Curt McCarty, with the state, informed him they are working on that problem. Discussion ensued.

9. Other

Mr. Wich asked for a time and place of the council's next meeting. It was decided on July 12, 2007, 10:00am in Terrebonne Parish.

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

