

South Central Regional Construction Code Council Meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2010
Time: 10:00AM

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

Members in attendance were:

John Boudreaux (Assumption)
Kristi Murray (St. John)
Shane Landry (St. James)
Pat Gordon (Terrebonne)
Kevin Belanger (SCPDC)
Deborah K. Moore (Lafourche)

Meeting Minutes

At approximately 10:00am the meeting began starting with the pledge of Allegiance. Roll call followed with all members being present.

Mr. John Boudreaux opened the floor to the Home Builders Association. There were no comments at this time.

Mr. John Boudreaux opened the floor to the public wishing to address the council. There were no comments at this time.

It was moved by Mr. Pat Gordon, seconded by Ms. Kristi Murray to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Kevin Belanger began discussion regarding renewal of contract. Mr. Belanger requested Mr. Wich give an overview of the permit process. Mr. Wich advised St. James, St. John and Assumption Parish are nearly 100% permits to SCPDC. Terrebonne Parish is upper 90% including trade permits. If you break down New Residential and New Commercial the fees would be 65% SCPDC and 35% Third parties. The Lafourche Parish breaks down of New Residential and New Commercial is 20% SCPDC and 80% Third Party.

Mr. Wich explains Third Party permits require just as much work as SCPDC permits. Eight out of ten jobs have seen major problems with structures, mechanical, electrical and gas. These items Third Parties should not have missed. It is costing SCPDC approximately \$120,000.00 per year to oversee Third Parties. A fee that was never considered when the process began.

Mr. Belanger reminded the board if you look at other areas in the State they do not give Discounts to Third Parties. Mr. Belanger suggests removing the Third Party discounts we have in place now.

Mr. Pat Gordon questioned whether errors were found with the Third Parties during Plan Review or Inspections. Mr. Wich advised errors have been found in both situations. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gordon request a year extension and possibly cutting discounts in half rather than doing away with them completely.

Mr. Boudreaux feels if Third Parties are costing more money the discounts should be adjusted. We need to get back to the original goal of trying to break even while providing a service to the public.

Mr. Wich advised the board due to the major problems we have had we now almost have to do a full plan review on Third Parties because their work is so poor. The ladies in the office spend 50% of the day dealing with Third Party paperwork because the handling of their paperwork is so poor. We constantly get inspection reports where their address and permit numbers does not match up. We get half the inspections but not the other half, when they are requesting power or COC. It's a constant battle and Mr. Wich spends 40% of his day dealing with Third Party issues. There is a significant cost dealing with Third Party issues. Discussion ensued

Mr. Dale Hymel, Parish President of St. James Parish was asked his thoughts. Mr. Hymel feels phasing discounts out would be a good idea. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Deborah Moore requests to defer voting on the topic of Third Party discount fees. Mr. Wich request we no longer delay this topic contracts are coming up. If Lafourche pulls out we have to lay people off those people would like to know. Discussion ensued.

It was moved by Mr. Pat Gordon, seconded by Mr. Shane Landry to reduce Third Party discount from 80% to 40%, renew contract for another year and also change parish administrative fees from 15% to 20% for Six Months upon amendment of ordinance. All Board members voted yea with the exception of Mrs. Deborah Moore voting nay. Motion Carried.

Next items is the ordinance language addressing after the fact permits, NEC 2008 adoption, Government project administrative fees and House Moving Fees. Mr. Wich handed out changes for the NEC 2008 code. The language needs to be changed in the ordinance so that we can be in line with what the state expects. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wich checked around as requested in reference to penalties on after the fact permits in other areas. Mr. Wich checked with Ascension, East Baton Rouge and Lafayette Parish. It seems they all enforce double the permit fees. If a stop work order is placed and ignored they enforce \$500.00 per day fine. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kevin Belanger wanted to Thank and recognized House of Representative Member Mr. Elton Aubert. He has been meeting and promoting our process all over the State.

It was moved by Mr. Kevin Belanger, seconded by Mr. Pat Gordon to adopt the penalties as so written in the attached ordinance language. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Mr. Pat Gordon, seconded by Ms. Kristi Murray to adopt the residential relocation permit fees as so written in the attached ordinance language. Motion Carried.

Per Mr. Tom Watkins, Attorney, there is no language needed for Waiving of Administrative Fees.

Mr. Jody Chenier mentioned discussing industrial permits. Mr. Wich advised he will bring language of Title 55 to further discuss at the next meeting.

Mr. Wich provided the board with a 2010 meeting schedule of March 25 in Assumption, June 24 in St. James, September 23 in St. John and December 16 in Terrebonne. All board members agreed schedule is fine.

Mr. Kevin Belanger request special meeting to be held on Monday, March 1, 2010 at SCPDC 10AM. All board members agreed on time and place.

Next item on Agenda is the Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Mr. Boudreaux turned nominations over to Ms. Dawn Allemand.

Chairman: Mr. Kevin Belanger nominated Ms. Kristi Murray, seconded by Mr. John Boudreaux. No other nominations Mr. Belanger moved to close nominations with a second from Mr. Boudreaux. All board members voted yea with the exception of Ms. Murray voting nay. Motion carried.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Kevin Belanger nominated Mr. Shane Landry, seconded by Mr. John Boudreaux. No other nominations Mr. Belanger moved to close nominations with a second from Mr. Boudreaux. Motion Carried.

There being no further information to be discussed, it was moved by Mr. Kevin Belanger, seconded by Mr. Pat Gordon to adjourn. Motion carried.