

**Infrastructure & Growth Council Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 15, 2009**

**10:00 AM**

**Municipal Plaza Room B**

**Members Present:** Councilmember *Philip Cortez, District 4, Chair*  
Councilmember *David Medina, District 5*  
Councilmember *Reed Williams, District 8*  
Councilmember *Elisa Chan, District 9*

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**Members Absent:** *None*

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**Staff Present:** Penny Postoak Ferguson, *Assistant City Manager*; Erik Walsh, *Assistant City Manager*; Rod Sanchez, *Planning & Development Services Director*; Earl Crayton, *Fire Marshal*; David Martinez, *Deputy Fire Chief*; Carl Wedige, *Assistant Fire Chief*; Fernando DeLeon, *Planning & Development Services Assistant Director*; Martha Sepeda, *First Assistant City Attorney*; Norb Hart, *Deputy City Attorney*; Ted Murphree, *Assistant City Attorney*; Gabriel Garcia, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Others Present:** Bob Salvatore, *S.A. Building Trades*; Aaron Holbrook, *Jacobs Engineering*; William Salmon, *Local Union #142*; Gerald Friesenhahn; Dale Hoff; Diane Hoskins, *Professional Engineers in Private Practice*; Robert Hanley, *SA Chapter-American Institute of Architects*; Johnny Perez, *Local 1612*; Margaret Shelton; Jack Tondre, *Local 142*; Kenton Hammond, *WKH Consulting*; David Tschirhart; Ray Navarro, *Local 142*; Marc Ross, *SA Apartment Association*; Andre Garabedran, *Building & Fire Code Board of Appeals*; Jeff Ramos, *Cazadores Construction*

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**1. Call to Order**

Councilmember Cortez called the meeting to order.

At this time, the Committee addressed Item 3.

**3. Approval of Minutes for the May 20, 2009 Infrastructure & Growth Council Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Medina moved to approve the Minutes of the May 20, 2009 Infrastructure and Growth Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Chan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## 1. Citizens to be Heard

**Bob Salvatore**, San Antonio Building Trades, spoke in opposition to the implementation of the International Plumbing Code (IPC). He stated that he had worked in the Construction Industry for 38 years with an Engineering background and requested that the Committee place a one-year moratorium on said issue to allow all sides to come together in a professional manner.

**Aaron Holbrook**, Jacob's Engineering, spoke in opposition to the implementation of the IPC. He cited the number of amendments required and the cost associated with changing from the current plumbing code.

**William Salmon**, Local Union #142, spoke in opposition to the implementation of the IPC. He stated that he had represented District 5 on the Plumbing Appeals Advisory Board for 17 years. He noted that the IPC was appropriate for small cities with one inspector and cited the organizations that endorsed the Uniform Plumbing Code.

**Gerald Friesenhahn** spoke in opposition to the implementation of the IPC. He indicated that he had circulated a petition and received several hundred signatures in opposition to the IPC.

**Dale Hoff** spoke in opposition to the International Plumbing Code. He stated that the IPC was a lax, whereas the Uniform Plumbing Code had a more strict interpretation.

**Diane Hoskins**, President-Professional Engineers in Private Practice, spoke in support of implementation of the IPC. She noted that the IPC allowed for greater flexibility for design resulted in cost savings. She added that most of the cities surrounding Bexar County have already adopted the IPC and urged the Committee to proceed with adoption of same.

**Robert Hanley**, San Antonio Architect, presented a position paper on behalf of the San Antonio Chapter American Institute of Architects in support of implementation of the IPC.

**Margaret Shelton** spoke in opposition to the implementation of the IPC. She stated that every Plumber would have to be re-taught and that businesses would incur great costs to retrain employees.

**Jack Tondre** spoke in opposition to implementation of the IPC. He stated that the IPC was a lax code and would undermine the quality of work interpreted by the current code.

**Kanton Hammond**, WKH Consulting, spoke in support of implementation of the IPC. He stated that he had operated utilizing the IPC and the Uniform Plumbing Code. He urged the Committee to proceed with adoption of the IPC.

**David Tschirhart**, Plumber & Pipefitter 115, spoke in opposition to the implementation of the IPC. He stated that the IPC interpretation was very lax and could result in loss of life or cause injury.

**Ray Navarro**, Local 142, spoke in opposition to implementation of the IPC.

*Marc Ross*, San Antonio Apartment Association, spoke in support of implementation of the IPC. He urged the Committee to forward the adoption of the IPC to the City Council with a favorable recommendation.

*John Mata* spoke in opposition to the implementation of the IPC. He asked of possible ramifications for adopting a flexible code and stated that there would be cost implications to the city in training fees and books.

*Andre Garabedian*, Building & Fire Code Board of Appeals Code Review Committee Chair, reported that after seven meetings, the subcommittee unanimously recommended adoption of the International Building Code, International Existing Building Code, International Fire Code, and International Residential Code. He noted that there were additional issues for discussion regarding the International Residential Code.

*Jeff Ramos*, Cazadores Construction, spoke in opposition to implementation of the IPC. He cited the expense of staff training and code material associated with changing to the IPC. He noted that he's had the opportunity to review the IPC and Uniform Plumbing Code and strongly believed the Uniform Plumbing Code was the best and safest code.

**4. Briefing and possible action on Building-related Code Amendments – Consideration to approve modification and adoption of Building-related Codes and acceptance of Air Conditioning Unit parts from Licensed Mechanical Contractors**

Presented by Roderick Sanchez, Director, Planning & Development Services Department

Rod Sanchez reported that the current Building-related codes were interpreted from the 2006 International Series with the exception of the 2006 Uniform Plumbing Code. He noted that the proposed ordinance adopts 2009 International Code Series with Amendments for all City of San Antonio Building-related Codes. In response to statements about associated costs, Mr. Sanchez explained that new code books would have to be purchased because the City would be moving from 2006 codes to the 2009 code series.

Councilmember Chan stated that all of the current Building-related Codes were International Series Codes with the exception of the Uniform Plumbing Code. She noted that it would be in the best interest of uniformity to have all codes interpreted from the International Code Series.

Councilmember Chan moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Briefing and possible action on Fire Department Code Amendments – Consideration to approve proposed Fire code amendments and adoption of the 2009 International Fire Code**

Presented by Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief

Chief Earl Crayton reported that the City of San Antonio has operated under the International Fire Code (IFC) since 2004 and noted that the SAFD amended retro requirements in the 2003 and 2006 editions. He provided an overview of significant changes to the 2009 IFC and amendments; new prevention fees; and prevention fee changes. He added that after seven Public Hearings the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the 2009 IFC.

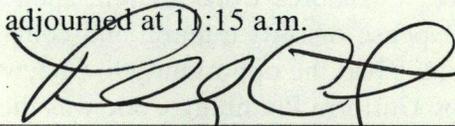
Councilmember Chan asked if fee increases were discussed during the Public Hearings. Chief Crayton stated that fee increases were discussed at the final two Public Hearings. Councilmember Chan expressed concern with public response to the proposed new fees and fee changes. Chief Crayton stated that he would provide a fee schedule to the Committee.

Chairman Cortez asked staff to brief the Committee and the City Council on the proposed fee schedule prior to October 1, 2009 and that the proposed fee schedule be included when presented to the full Council for consideration.

Councilmember Williams moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Chan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

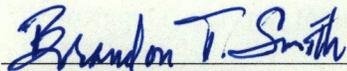
#### **6. Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.



*Philip Cortez, Chairman*

*Respectfully Submitted,*



*Brandon T. Smith*

*Office of the City Clerk*