

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Florencio Peña, Director Development Services

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPY: Christopher J. Brady, Assistant City Manager, File

SUBJECT: Chapter 6 Mechanical City Code Amendments

DATE: May 27, 2004

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An ordinance amending Chapter 6 of the City Code, titled "Building", regarding municipal mechanical testing and licensing. Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State of Texas presently administers examinations for licensing of master mechanical contractors with the City administering examinations for master mechanical contractors and technicians. City licensing requires three year's experience as an apprentice before testing as a technician and two additional year's experience to test for a master mechanical license. The City, in an effort to continue to streamline the development process, is recommending phasing out all new testing and new licensing of mechanical licenses deferring to the State license provisions. This streamlining will eliminate the redundancy of municipal testing and licensing by deferring to the State. The City will continue to renew any existing mechanical licenses issued to date and allow a period of time for individuals to test before discontinuing local testing. The proposal is for current apprentices to test for technician licenses through January 2005 and technicians will be allowed to test for master mechanical license through October 2007. The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation is the State agency that is charged with the enforcement of the mechanical licensing provision. There will be no change in projected revenue for registration of State mechanical masters license and renewal of municipal masters license.

The State enacted licensing provisions for mechanical contractors in 1984. Prior to this action licensing of mechanical contractors was the responsibility of municipalities or regions where licensing provisions were adopted. This licensing provision allowed municipalities to continue testing and licensing of mechanical contractors if they so chose. The City has continued local testing and licensing of mechanical contractors to date. The City Mechanical Board of Appeals has been charged with the responsibility of reviewing the experience qualifications of applicants and presently administers mechanical examinations quarterly. The State offers computerized examinations with open scheduling. The proposed amendment will no longer require the City to administer mechanical

examinations for new licenses after the phase out dates. This local licensing has been a duplication of the States licensing provisions. The City presently licenses Master Mechanical, and Technicians.

POLICY ANALYSIS

The adoption of these code amendments is consistent with the council policy to safeguard public health, safety and welfare. Other cities in Texas such as Dallas, Ft Worth, Houston and Austin have discontinued their local licensing of mechanical contractors shortly after the 1984 implementation of the State license.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no anticipated financial impact on fiscal year 2003-04. It is anticipated that in fiscal year 2004-05 there will be a revenue shortfall of \$9,600 with the discontinuation of Apprentice registration and Technician testing and licensing. The anticipated revenue shortfall for fiscal year 2007-08 is anticipated to have an additional \$3,000 shortfall with the discontinuation of the Master license. Additional revenue streams will be explored through the upcoming budget process for future projected revenue shortfalls.

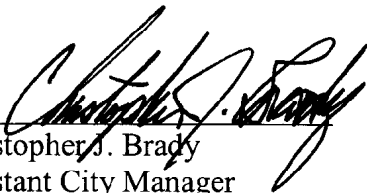
COORDINATION

This ordinance has been coordinated with the Mechanical Board of Appeals and the City Attorney's Office.

SIGNATURES

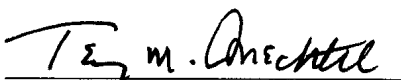


Florencio Peña, Director
Development Services Department



Christopher J. Brady
Assistant City Manager

Approved:



Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager

Proposed amendments to Chapter 6 of the City Code

Section 118.3 A San Antonio mechanical license may be issued to any person who meets the prerequisites listed below, successfully completes the San Antonio mechanical examination and has paid the required license fee. Effective the last day of January 2005 the City will no longer administer examinations for new Technician license. Effective the last day of October 2007 the City will no longer administer examinations for new Master license.