

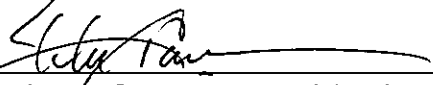
Open Work Session Minutes-Electrical Standards November 3, 2015

Mr. Jack Lenox, Director of Planning, Zoning and Community Development and Mr. George Landing, President of Board of Electrical Examiners, came before Council. Mr. Lenox said the proposed legislation would bring us very far out of a hole, from 2008 up through two code cycles. You have heard that through the building code, it is a three-year code cycle. This is off cycle in terms of the electrical code. We are now up to 2015 in building, and we are trying to get up to 2014 in electrical. Mr. Lenox continued stating that Worcester County is up to 2014, Somerset County is still at 2008 and Dorchester is still at 2008, his thinks, but obviously we are all trying to get on the same cycle. We are trying to get our inspectors, electrical folks, and builders on the same cycle, same set of books, so that when they go get their training, they are studying from the same book. Mr. Lenox continued, he said Mr. Joe Holloway last time had a question about liability to make sure we are enforcing the state of the art codes, which brings us to the introduction of legislation that will bring us up to the 2014 electrical code. Mr. Kilmer asked if this is one of the codes that the Council must adopt and asked if Council has any discretion, to which Mr. Landing responded that to his knowledge there is not a requirement but as a rule it is adopted as a standard that is prudent. Mr. Dodd asked if he got the email from Johnny Miller. Mr. Landing responded that Mr. Miller is speaking about temporary wiring when you have functions such as bike week, pork in the park, etc., but they fall under a different section, Article 525, titled "carnivals, circus, fairs, and similar events, which allows for hard usage cords for such things as that. If it were a permanent installation such as the fairs for Hebron or Sharptown then they have a different requirement but when you have a set-up that is done periodically, less than 90 days temporary allowance, then Article 525 addresses that. Mr. Dodd said that Mr. Miller has some concerns regarding temporary wiring. Mr. Landing responded that he is referring to temporary wiring, which is a totally different Article, it falls under Article 590, but special events, such as the Pork in the Park, fall under Article 525. Dodd then asked if we adopt this legislation, then would it not affect what Mr. Miller thinks it would, to which Mr. Landing responded that you would not be doing anything different than what you are doing now. Mr. Dodd asked if the 2014 National Electrical Code is different than the NFPA. Mr. Landing responded that the NFPA is the National Fire Protection Association; the National Electrical Code is a standard from that as they have about 100 different standards. Mr. Dodd stated that it is not the law unless you adopt it, until then it is a standard, to which Mr. Landing said correct. Mr. Joe Holloway then asked if we adopt this legislation what is going to be the biggest obstacle for the electricians. Is there anything that is going to rock the boat for the builders and electricians as the building industry has been suffering lately. Mr. Landing responded probably the \$300 increase over the costs for additional AFCI protection requirements that have expanded into the laundry areas and

kitchens. It is kind of a trade off as there is a new type of breaker that is still AFCI protective and it does a double duty, it does GFCI ground circuit interrupter protection as well as AFCI protection, so they get to get away with not having to install a receptacle. The trade off is the \$13 receptacle and you would have to pay an additional \$2 for the breaker that you would have to provide anyway. So you are picking up additional five over current devices or breakers for the wiring. The rest of the wiring would remain the same, it is just a matter of changing over current devices in the panel. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if we are taking about all new type breakers, to which Mr. Landing responded not all new, you are looking at about five new type breakers, so you are looking at maybe \$250 to \$300 extra. The costs have typically come down through the years as they use more of the AFCI and GFCI; they have come down about 50% of what they were initially. Mr. Cannon then asked if it was inevitable that we have to go in this direction. Mr. Landing responded, it is proven with that of the AFCI as they sense an arcing fault, say you have a pinched cord or something of that nature, instead of being able to trip the over current device or blow the fuse, the arch would be able to generate enough heat to start a fire, whereas these AFCIs would be able to see that ahead of time and it would trip. Mr. Joe Holloway said that it seems as if it is an inexpensive safety measure, but he looks at it as say some Sunday night when you need a breaker and you are running around looking for one but you can't find it, then it just creates another issue down the road. Mr. Landing responded that just about every box store carries one but it is not as bad as when they first came out, about 95% of the stores carry it. Mr. Hall said he concerned that this is such a short notice. Mr. Cannon explained that this is a work session and that it would go through the public hearing process. Mr. Hall then asked what are the major changes being made, to which Mr. Landing responded that there are over approximately 3,000 changes in each cycle. Typically there are about 5600 submissions to the National Electrical Code and some 30 panels that meet during the three year cycle, the public or anybody can make a submission, you don't have to be a builder, electrician, or engineer which is a great thing about the NFPA, whereas with the IEC you have to be a member. Mr. Landing continued, he said that a lot of the changes are simply relocations in the code so it makes it easier for the people to use. However, there are some like the AFCI protection and, of course, this comes out in three-year cycles, and we are coming up on the 2017 cycle here soon. In about a year to a year and half out there are code seminars to let the people know what is coming down the pipeline. The electricians that need to get their continuing education, or license renewed are aware of this probably about one year to a year and half out. Mr. Kilmer said that the legislation is changing the word "should" to "shall" in having a master electrician do the work, which seems to limit the number of people because they would need to qualify as master electricians. Mr. Landing responded that he thinks the code was written in 1967. The concern is that because of the work that is done by a master electrician, such as high voltages, people that have a general license or

limited license do not have the skill set, even though they might have the knowledge to pass the test, when it comes down to actually doing the work, they don't have the skill set and if we turn them lose to the public that would be a great disservice. Mr. Kilmer asked if there have been issues, to which Mr. Landing responded that we have not had many people that have made the application because they have been under the understanding that they need to have seven years of experience under the state requirement. Mr. Kilmer said that he likes to have a little wiggle room in the law. Mr. Cannon said that we can discuss this more when it comes back to Council for a vote, but when it comes to electricity and electrical fixtures, he likes the word "should" as opposed to the "shall". Mr. Kilmer said that he likes giving the workers more wiggle room and is in favor of less government regulations.


**Open Work Session – Electrical Standards
November 3, 2015**



John T. Cannon, President



Matt Holloway, Vice President



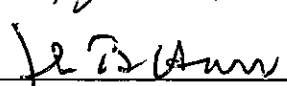
Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Marc Kilmer, District 2



Larry W. Dodd, District 3



John B. Hall, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



Matthew E. Creamer, Council Administrator