



TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: William A. Gaines, Director of Utilities/CEO *WAG*
COPY: T. C. Broadnax, City Manager and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance - Repeal and reenact Chapter 2.04 of the Tacoma Municipal Code to update the City of Tacoma Electrical Code– June 23, 2015
DATE: May 15, 2015

SUMMARY:

Repeal and reenact Chapter 2.04 of the Tacoma Municipal Code to update the City of Tacoma Electrical Code.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support public safety, human services, public education, and diverse higher learning opportunities in Tacoma.

Updates to the Tacoma Electrical Code support the City of Tacoma’s strategic goal to strengthen and support public safety. Enforcement of the latest edition the National Electrical Code results in high levels of electrical safety. Safe, reliable electrical systems supplied by Tacoma Power contribute to the safety of life and property.

BACKGROUND:

The Tacoma Electrical Code, Chapter 2.04 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, was last modified in August of 2010 to reflect electrical provision changes found in the National Electrical Code, Revised Code of Washington, Washington Administrative Code, and to make other organizational and accuracy improvements. In 2013, language governing certain licensing requirements was updated to improve clarity.

The proposed amendments to the Tacoma Electrical Code will clarify adoption and application of the current safety standards and practices contained in the 2014 National Electrical Code and the Washington Administrative Code Chapter 296-46B.

As part of Tacoma Power’s on-going effort to improve the clarity, application, and enforcement of the Tacoma Electrical Code, amendments, including new definitions, clarification of terms and conditions for permits and inspection fee services have been added. These amendments will improve customer understanding and use of the Code. Revisions to the 2014 Tacoma Electrical Code were the combined efforts of Ward Groves (Deputy City Attorney), and James Hellman (Chief Electrical Inspector).

ISSUE:

- Obsolete and inadequate language contained in the Tacoma Electrical Code.
- The current language does not allow Tacoma power the ability to administer and enforce the 2014 National Electrical Code and the current version of WAC 296-46B related to electrical safety standards, administration, and installation.
- The interpretation of language pertaining to temporary connections of service conductors by customers has raised concerns from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.
- Adopting the proposed amendments will resolve these issues and provide customers a greater understanding of their responsibilities when purchasing electrical permits and performing electrical work in Tacoma Power’s jurisdiction.

RECOMMENDATION:

Repeal and re-enact the Tacoma Electrical Code to adopt proposed amendments.



FISCAL IMPACT:

If you are making a commitment on the City’s behalf to receive or expend funds, then the fiscal impact section should be completed. If this does not apply, enter “There is no fiscal impact” and delete everything below this line. If you are unsure, please contact the Budget Office. If the action is to accept a donation, you do not need to complete the fiscal impact section, just note the estimated value of the donation in the background section.

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
TOTAL			

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
TOTAL			

POTENTIAL POSITION IMPACT:

POSITION TITLE	PERMANENT/ PROJECT TEMPORARY POSITION	FTE IMPACT	POSITION END DATE
TOTAL			

This section should only be completed if a subsequent request will be made to increase or decrease the current position count.

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: Enter Amount in Dollars

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Enter Yes, No, or N/A

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.

Explain how expenditures are to be covered and if budget modifications are required.