



TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: William A. Gaines, Director of Utilities/CEO
COPY: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution/Ordinance – Electrical Code update – July 25, 2017
DATE: June 26, 2017

SUMMARY:

Tacoma Power seeks Council approval to repeal Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 2.04 Electrical Code in its entirety and adopt a new Chapter TMC 12.06A Electrical Code to include minor housekeeping of language.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

Updates to the Tacoma Electrical Code support the City of Tacoma’s strategic goal to strengthen and support public safety. High levels of electrical safety are achieved through enforcement of the latest edition the National Electrical Code, the Washington Administrative Code, Chapter 296-46B, and the Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 19.28.

BACKGROUND:

From time to time amendments to the Tacoma Electrical Code are necessary to improve its use and readability. The Tacoma Electrical Code, Chapter 2.04 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, was last modified in June of 2015. The Code was modified to reflect electrical provision changes found in the National Electrical Code (NEC), Washington Administrative Code 296.46B, and the Revised Code of Washington 19.28, and to make other organizational and accuracy improvements.

Repealing Chapter 2.04 Electrical Code and adopting Chapter 12.06A Electrical Code as part of Title 12 (Utilities) ensures similar subject matter is grouped together in the TMC. The subject matter of Chapter 12.06 of Title 12 pertains to electrical service and related requirements. The Electrical Code pertains to requirements for electrical service plan reviews, service and metering equipment installations, and electrical permits so it is logical to locate the Electrical Code in Title 12 identified as Chapter 12.06A.

Four references to Chapter 2.04 exist within various Sections of the TMC. These references will be amended to reflect the change from 2.04 to 12.06A as part of this Electrical Code update. Sections containing 2.04 references needing update are 2.01.060 O, 2.02.090 13, 2.02.540 b, and 2.05.010. See exhibits “C” through “J”.

Proposed amendments will provide customers a greater understanding of Tacoma Power’s requirements and customer responsibilities when applying for and receiving electrical service, purchasing electrical permits, and when performing electrical work in Tacoma Power’s jurisdiction.

Revisions to the 2015 Tacoma Electrical Code were the combined efforts of Ward Groves (Deputy City Attorney), and James Hellman (Chief Electrical Inspector).

ISSUE:

The 2015 Electrical Code, TMC Chapter 2.04, does not allow Tacoma Power the ability to administer and enforce provision changes found in the 2017 edition of the NEC that address electrical safety standards and practices. The separation of TMC 2.04 Electrical Code and TMC 12.06 Electric Energy and Rates does not provide customers a common location where they can find similar information necessary to obtain and maintain power. Adopting the proposed amendments will alleviate this issue and will provide customers one location within the TMC where they can find current information related to electrical service and installation requirements.

OR –

Continue utilizing the current Tacoma Electrical Code.



RECOMMENDATION:

Tacoma Power recommends Council approval of amendments to the Tacoma Electrical Code as approved by the Public Utility Board to go into effect September 1, 2017

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: None

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? 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.