

JOHN COOK
MAYOR



JOYCE WILSON
CITY MANAGER

CITY COUNCIL
ANN MORGAN LILLY, DISTRICT 1
SUSANNAH M. BYRD, DISTRICT 2
EMMA ACOSTA, DISTRICT 3
CARL ROBINSON, DISTRICT 4
RACHEL QUINTANA, DISTRICT 5
EDDIE HOLGUIN JR., DISTRICT 6
STEVE ORTEGA, DISTRICT 7
BETO O'ROURKE, DISTRICT 8

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Susie Byrd, City Representative, District #2
DATE: October 4, 2010
RE: Back Up, Agenda Item 7B, City Council Meeting of October 5, 2010

Dear Mayor and Council:

I have placed the following agenda item on the October 5, 2010 City Council meeting at the request of Melissa Brandrup, a local architect, and Cyrus Reed, the Conversation Director of the Lone Star Sierra Club. They are interested in the City Council pursuing green building initiatives above and beyond what is prescribed in the 2009 IECC codes.

Discussion and action that the City Manager convene a temporary "Greenbuilding Task Force" made up of architects, builders, contractors and advocates in the spring of 2011 to provide input to City Council on financial, non-financial and other incentives or recognitions to encourage homebuilders and commercial developers to go beyond the 2009 IECC codes by 15 or 30 percent in terms of energy savings, and other changes designed to save energy, waste and water use in new buildings or in the retrofitting of existing buildings. The task force will provide the City with a list of recommendations on how to encourage these practices in the spring of 2011 for City Council consideration. The Task Force will specifically seek a presence and input from the El Paso Electric Utility and the El Paso Public Utility Board to better coordinate their incentive programs with Engineering and Construction Management and Planning and Economic Development Services.

During our conversations on the 2009 IECC Codes, members of the public and several City Council members talked about how other cities were going beyond these codes to encourage even more energy savings and even more water savings than what is in the codes. Other cities are doing this with incentives or with additional code changes. In addition, the Water Utilities indicated that there were some changes that they would like City Council to consider that would result in even more water savings. Rather than hold up the process of adopting the 2009 IECC Codes, we agreed that we would come back to this issue.

I spoke with Alan Shubert about this and he indicated that he was amenable to the idea of a convening a taskforce and thought it was a good idea. He did say though that he needed City staff to focus on implementing the 2009 IECC Building Codes for the remainder of the year. He agreed to take up the task at the beginning of next year. This agenda item would put this process in motion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susie Byrd
City Council Representative, District 2