

Contact: Eric Broce  
Phone: (620) 441-4420  
Fax: (620) 441-4403  
[ebroce@arkansascityks.gov](mailto:ebroce@arkansascityks.gov)

Public Works Department  
City of Arkansas City  
118 W. Central Ave.  
Arkansas City, KS 67005



# Press Release

## Building Trades Board to continue 2015 code cycle meetings

*Joint meetings of Ark City, Wellington, Winfield boards to resume next week*

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (July 7, 2016) — Joint meetings of three area trades boards to discuss, modify and implement the 2015 International Code Cycle (ICC) will resume next week in Winfield.

The City of Arkansas City's Building Trades Board, in conjunction with its fellow advisory boards in Wellington and Winfield, will continue working this summer to move all three cities to the new code.

Board members will participate in biweekly meetings on Tuesdays or Thursdays in July, August and September concerning their particular disciplines. Each trade will have two or three meetings per month.

In July and August, meetings will be from 6 to 8 p.m. in Room 108 in Southwestern College's Beech Science Center. Future meetings may return to Room 605 at Winfield Public Library, 605 College St.

Neighborhood Services Superintendent Richard Brown, the City's code enforcement official who is an ex officio member of the board, is an electrician by trade, but he will sit in on all of the code meetings.

The electrical code meetings will be July 12 and 26; Aug. 9 and 23; and Sept. 6 and 20.

Winfield building official Rod Haney, who filled in as a temporary code official on a part-time basis in Arkansas City until Brown was hired last October, will guide the builders and sit in on all meetings.

The building code meetings will be July 14 and 28; Aug. 11 and 25; and Sept. 8 and 22.

Wellington building official Richard Jack, with whom Brown once worked in Wichita, will work with local heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) contractors and plumbers in their meetings.

Plumbing/mechanical code meetings will be July 19; Aug. 2, 16 and 30; and Sept. 13 and 27.

The Arkansas City Building Trades Advisory Board generally meets at 5:15 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the commission room at City Hall, 118 W. Central Ave. However, its regular

**For immediate release**

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meetings will not be held in July, August or September — unless a formal complaint is brought to the board, requiring a public hearing — due to the increased workload of the code meetings.

## The 2015 International Code Cycle

Arkansas City currently observes the 2009 International Code Cycle, which is adopted by reference in its municipal code, along with amendments that were made to some international codes by the board.

The current ICC codes enforced in Arkansas City are the:

- 2009 International Building Code (IBC);
- 2009 International Existing Building Code (IEBC);
- 2009 International Fire Code (IFC);
- 2009 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC);
- 2009 International Mechanical Code (IMC);
- 2009 International Plumbing Code (IPC);
- 2009 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC);
- 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) for One- and Two-Family Dwellings;
- 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC).

The City also has adopted the 2009 International Private Sewage Disposal Code by reference.

The code cycle change planned for all three cities this year will move them to the 2015 versions of the IBC, IEBC, IFC, IFGC, IMC, IPC, IPMC and IRC, as well as the 2014 version of the NEC.

Brown says it is good to adopt the newest codes every six years. Prior to the 2009 codes, the City had adopted the 2003 codes. But the change to 2009 codes has been unpopular with many contractors.

“The 2015 (code) is so much like the 2006, which is one of the best codes they had,” Brown said, predicting the new, simplified codes will be more popular with tradesmen. “You’ll get a kick out of it.”

Fire Chief Bobby Wolfe, who also is an ex officio member of the board, said the State of Kansas was planning to move to the 2012 International Fire Code, but said he’d prefer it went to the 2015 IFC.

The goal of all three cities’ building officials is to unify what they enforce within their respective city limits, even to the point of ensuring that all of their amendments match.

“We’re all trying to be on the same page,” Brown said, “so that if you go to Wellington, even with the amendments, you’ll know (what the code is). We’re trying to make it all local. There’s nothing requiring it — it’s just something we want to do for our contractors, and us.”

Brown said Derby, Haysville, Sedgwick County, Valley Center and Wichita all have tried to do the same thing, and now they all have almost exactly the same ordinances and changes.

When Brown was working in Rose Hill, he strived to match that group's codes, even though he was in Butler County.

### **About the Building Trades Advisory Board**

The Building Trades Board was established for the purpose of establishing criteria for licensing and regulating persons, firms or corporations desiring to engage in any of the defined building trades.

It also serves as a review board to which decisions of the code enforcement official may be appealed by citizens. If the board rules against them, they can appeal its decisions in district court.

The board has specific membership requirements to ensure representative cross-sections of trades:

- Two members must be electricians, one of whom must be a master electrician. The current electrical members are Mark Bartlett, of Bartlett Electric, and Brian Mayfield, of Mayfield Electric.
- Two members must be plumbers, one of whom must be a master plumber. The current plumbing representatives are Dave Billings, of Billings Plumbing, and Carl Bowman, of Bowman's Plumbing, Heating & Air, who serves as chairman of the board.
- Two members must be general contractors doing business in Arkansas City. Those members are Leonard Mumford, of Mumford Contracting, and Randy Smith, of Randy Smith Construction.
- Two members must represent heating, air-conditioning or refrigeration contractors. The current HVAC members are Brian Lawrence, of Ark City Service, and Ken Miller, of Tickel Refrigeration.
- One member must be a citizen or layman familiar with the requirements of the Arkansas City building code. This position currently is held by Chris Rains, of Ace Construction.

All nine terms are for two years each. The fire-EMS chief and code enforcement official both serve as ex officio members of the board without voting privileges.