


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	22-354	Meeting:	August 8, 2022
	Agenda Item:	57	Roll Call:	22-1295
	Submitted by:	Erin Olson-Douglas, Development Services Department Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Amend chapter 26, article VII of the Municipal Code to eliminate the Power Engineers Examining Board.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend eliminating the Power Engineers Examining Board and associated requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Power Engineers Examining Board was established in the late 1940's by the City to regulate boiler operators. Boiler technology has evolved to what once was operated by valves and gauges is now operated by building automation software that can be done by someone in another location. The testing and licensing of boiler operators has not stayed on pace with current boiler technology and doesn't reflect current industry standards.
- The boiler industry and facility management industry provides more relevant training on boiler operations than what the City licensing exams provide to those operating boilers.
- Additionally, this ordinance requires Development Services Department staff to track the boiler equipment installed throughout the City to ensure it is ran by a licensed operator. The database for this equipment has not been updated since 1965, and much of this equipment has since been replaced or the buildings have been demolished. Development Services Department issues mechanical permits for this equipment and ensures proper installation when equipment is new or replaced.
- The City of Des Moines and Sioux City are the only two (2) cities in the state that require boiler operators to be licensed.
- The membership of the Power Engineers Examining Board is down to one (1) member. The Power Engineers Examining Board has served its purpose and met its goals for the City. It is no longer necessary and should be eliminated.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 23, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-1998](#)

Action: [Amending](#) Chapter 26 of the Municipal Code regarding operation of steam boilers and engines, and the licensing of power engineers and firemen. ([Council Communication No. 13-606](#)) Moved by Hensley that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Power Engineers Examining Board

Date: July 5, 2022

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: The elimination of the Board was discussed with the lone Board member at the Power Engineers meeting. The Board member was not in favor of eliminating the Board.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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