



**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE**  
**February 6, 2020**

**Department** Safety & Code Enforcement

**Director Approval** *David Cowan*

**AGENDA ITEM** Amending Ordinance 18-217 in the Plumbing Code.

**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION** City staff recommends amending the use of copper piping.

**BACKGROUND** The City of Independence Plumbing Board has been reviewing concerns about copper piping used for natural gas piping in residential and commercial property. Copper pipe can fail over time as a result of corrosion, flaking on the inside of the pipe and weakening. Atmos Energy is also supportive of the removal of copper piping for a natural gas line.

**BUDGET IMPACT** There is no budget impact.

**SUGGESTED MOTION** I move that the City approve the amendment to the plumbing code and not allow copper pipe to be used for natural gas piping in residential or commercial properties.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

1. Ordinance
2. January 20, 2020 minutes

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**An Ordinance Amending the 2012 Edition of the  
Uniform Plumbing Code as Adopted by the City of Independence**

*BE IT ORDAINED* by the Governing Body of the City of Independence, Kansas:

**Section 1.** City Code Section 18-217 is hereby amended to add subsection (i) as follows:

(i) The 2012 Edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code is amended to include the following restriction:

Copper lines are not allowed to be used for natural gas piping lines in residences or commercial properties.

**Section 2.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon its publication in the official City newspaper.

*Adopted by the Governing Body of the City of Independence, Kansas, on the \_\_\_\_\_  
day of January, 2020.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID W. SCHWENKER, City Clerk



January 20, 2020

Plumbing Board Meeting  
Spanish Room – Memorial Hall

Call To Order: Paul Lemon

Present: Paul Lemon, Doug Rinck, Chris Fry  
Absent: Pat Howe & Wayne Sundquist

Minutes: Reviewed the December 16, 2019 minutes  
Motion to approve the minutes: Doug Rinck  
Second: Paul Lemon  
Aye: Rinck, Fry, Lemon  
Nay: None

Old Business: David reviewed the issue on Westminster and the resolution to the issue.  
Discussion about a proposed assistance with sewer rehab grants with the City increasing the assistance to 2,000.00 and 4,000.00 for those that qualify.

New Business:

Proposed Ordinance 1: Removing copper lines for use with natural gas piping.

Motion to approve and send to the commission for approval: Paul Lemon  
Second: Doug Rinck  
Aye: Rinck, Fry, Lemon  
Nay: None

Proposed Ordinance 2: Requiring 6 hrs of CEU starting in 2021 in order to obtain your city license.

Motion to approve and send to the commission for approval: Doug Rinck  
Second: Paul Lemon  
Aye: Rinck, Fry, Lemon  
Nay: None



Non-licenced Plumbers:

Discussion about individuals working inside the City limits without a City license. Several names were provided to David and he will visit with them and warn them about working without a license.

Atmos Gas Webpage:

Chris reported that Atmos Gas will be putting licensed Plumbers names on there website for people to reference when they need a plumber. Atmos is also looking at some assistance programs to help people with the cost of a plumber.

Issue with meters being stolen and people stealing gas. Chris reported about issues of on-going theft that is occurring and informed the plumbers what they need to be watching for.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Paul Lemon Second: Doug Aye: All approved

---

Paul Lemon

---

Date

David Cowan 01212020