



**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE**  
**July 23, 2020**

**Department** Safety & Code Enforcement

**Director Approval** *David Cowan*

**AGENDA ITEM** Consider an ordinance amending the National Electric Code as recommended by the Electrical Board..

**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION** City staff recommends amending Amending Ordinance 18-122(b), of the adopted National Electric Code.

**BACKGROUND** The City Commission at the June 25, 2020, meeting asked for some clarification on the Ordinance related distance of the disconnect and language in item (4). The Electrical Board met on July 13, 2020, and reviewed the Ordinance. A new or upgraded service that has greater than ten wire feet from the meter to the breaker panel shall have a disconnect. The disconnect must be within ten wire feet of the meter base. The NEC requires the disconnect to be on the same building with the meter. The wire feet from the disconnect to the breaker panel are not regulated, but NEC provides for the type of service wire and how it is installed to the breaker panel. The electrical board removed language in item (4) that required board approval.

**BUDGET IMPACT** There would not be any budget impact for this amendment to the code.

**SUGGESTED MOTION** I move to adopt ordinance 4332 amending the National Electric Code.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

1. Proposed Ordinance
2. March 2020 Minutes

**ORDINANCE NO. 4332**

**An Ordinance Amending the National Electric Code  
As Previously Adopted by the City of Independence**

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

**Section 1.** City Code Section 18-122(b) is hereby amended to read as follows in its entirety:

“(b) The 2011 edition of the National Electric Code as adopted is modified to include the following provisions:

- (1) All new or upgraded commercial electrical service shall have a service disconnect on the exterior of the building not to exceed ten (10) feet from the meter base.
- (2) All new residential construction electrical service shall have a service disconnect on the exterior of the building not to exceed ten (10) feet from the meter base.
- (3) All commercial buildings being remodeled by more than fifty percent (50%) as determined by code enforcement officer are required to complete an electrical service and wiring upgrade throughout the entire building.
- (4) The code enforcement officer shall have the authority to grant temporary service to a commercial or residential structure for up to forty-five (45) days while repairs or upgrades are being made.

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2020.*

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LEONHARD CAFLISCH, Mayor

ATTEST:

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DAVID W. SCHWENKER, City Clerk



March 02, 2020

Electrical Board Minutes – March 02, 2020 Meeting

Call to Order: Kenny Evans

Present: Rick Kiister, Kenny Evans, Dennis Royer, Travis Blankinship and Rick Howard

Approval of Minutes: Review of the January 06, 2020 minutes. Motion to approve Rick / Second Kenny. Yes – 5 No - 0

Old Business: Reviewed the approved ordinance and updates suggested at the last meeting.

Kenny Evans: Read the changes in 2020 approved IBC that requires disconnects

Rick Howard: 80% of the houses; this isn't an issue, but there are houses that can't be upgraded without high cost to the owner. Is there a way we can address those houses?

Kenny Evans: Some cities are now putting into the code that Federal Pacific Panels are no longer allowed and must be removed.

Motion: Travis Blankinship made a motion to approve items 1-4 and to include disconnects on all new and upgraded residential service.

Second: Motion failed for lack of second

Motion: Travis Blankinship made a motion to approve items 1-4 and to include disconnects on all new residential service as written below:

“(b) The 2011 edition of the National Electric Code as adopted is modified to include the following provisions:

(1) All new or upgraded commercial electrical service shall have a service disconnect on the exterior of the building not to exceed 10' from the meter base.

(2) All new residential construction electrical service shall have a service disconnect on the exterior of the building not to exceed 10' from the meter base.



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(3) Commercial buildings being remodeled more than {50}% require an electrical service and wiring upgrade throughout the building.

(4) The designated code enforcement officer for the City of Independence shall have authority to grant temporary service to a commercial or residential structure for up to 45 days while repairs or upgrades are being made. Any additional grant of temporary service shall require the approval of the Electrical Board.

Second: Rick Howard  
Approval: In favor: 5    Opposed: 0

Kenny Evans: We will review the Federal Pacific Panels next month. I want to get copies of the Ordinances that the other cities prepared.

David: I will send this to the City Attorney and have it on the next possible agenda for commission approval.

David: Update on the house on Cement street. The service has been upgraded and is now in compliance.  
Rick Howard – who did the work?  
David – Mike Moore did the upgrade

David: Discussion of 223 W. Main. The City requires the owner to have the MEP Engineer come and review the work done and report back to the City. General Discussion by the Board. Board feels it should be in conduit as per the code and it is in the Downtown Fire Zone.

Complaint: The Electrical Board has received a complaint that Newton's Plumbing and Electrical is doing electrical work without a journeyman or master on the job site. It is reported that Chanute, Coffeyville and So. Coffeyville have had them stop working.

Board: The City contact Joe and advice him the City code requires at a minimum a journeyman on site for any electrical work. If he is not in compliance he must stop doing electrical work in the City until he comes into compliance.

David: I will contact him on 3/3/2020

Kenny: I would like information on how the City verifies electricians licenses and qualifications before giving them a licenses? We also used to receive a card that



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we carried in our wallets to show proof of licensure. Is the building inspector reviewing the applications and signing off before the City issues a license? Do we have journeyman with a business license?

Discussion: Board asked the building inspector to start requesting to see city license when inspection a job site.

David: I will check with Lacey and report back or have her at the next meeting. We will be making changes next year related to the new ordinance. I will also check on how we issue business licenses for electricians.

Rick Howard: I would like to discuss general maintenance and janitorial doing electrical work at the next meeting.

Adjournment: Motion Kenny Evans

Second – Rick Howard Motion passed 5/0

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Kenny Evans, Chair

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Date

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David Cowan, Bldg Inspector/Secretary