

PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar
July 19, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM.

Members Present: Ms. Hale via Zoom, Christine Woll – Acting Chair, Ms. Hughes-Skandijs via Zoom, and Mr. Voelckers. Assembly Member Loren Jones was also in attendance.

Staff Members Present: Katie Koester, Denise Koch, City Manager Rorie Watt, Robert Barr, Dan Bleidorn, Alex Pierce, Catherine Melville, Beth Weigel, Jeanne Rynne, Steve Tada, Lori Sowa, Greg Smith, Caleb Comas, Paula Osborn, City Clerk Beth McEwen, and Deputy Clerk Di Cathcart.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 7, 2021 – Regular Meeting

B. June 21, 2021 – Special Virtual Meeting

No objection, minutes passed.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

IV. ITEMS FOR ACTION

None.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Zero Waste Plan Recommendations to Assembly

Ms. Koester asked the Committee to consider the problem statements mentioned in the memo which were developed at the June 7, 2021, Regular Meeting and come up with action items which could be presented to the full Assembly.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Hale asked if the Committee was interested in changing the long-term goal title from “Reduce Waste Stream to Prolong the Life of the Landfill” to “Reduce Waste Stream”. She also asked to consider asking DEC to come and talk with the Committee concerning the regulatory aspects of owning a landfill.

The Committee is in agreement of removing the last part of the title from the long-term goal name.

Ms. Woll was a bit hesitant in that, maybe the new name may be too broad.

Ms. Koester stated she feels it is not too broad and can still be focused in a specific direction. Action items can be created to focus the waste stream in the direction the Committee desires.

Ms. Hale would like to include a “mid-term” goal...something more of a pilot program, heading toward a Zero Waste Plan. The City could possibly start heading in that direction through composting.

Ms. Koester stated through an industrial survey that was just completed, the majority of compostable wastes are ending up going through the sewer treatment plant. She will bring more information as to what the profile of the community waste is, and also bring information as to what staff feels is ending up in the city sewer system but could and should go to a composting facility.

More discussion ensued.

The Committee feels mid-term goals of encouraging composting is a very good place to start.

The Committee would be interested in an update as to how/when the abandoned vehicles become junk vehicles, in addition as to how the junk vehicle program is working.

The Committee also feels that any goals or action items set which involve outside organizations/companies, which will effect their profitability...these groups need to be included in the discussion and the Committee/Staff need to fully understand the implications of any action items implemented.

B. ArtWorks Presentation

Ms. Weigel, Director of City Museum, gave a presentation regarding the WPA grant and how the funds were distributed to assist artists during the COVID pandemic.

C. Vote By Mail Elections Center

Ms. Koester mentioned the presentation is based off of the request by the Assembly to look at Option C-2 – a hybrid voting center with a hybrid vote by mail voting features. Requirements have very high security, equipment cannot be moved easily, and the facility must be owned by the City.

Thane Warehouse seems to be a good fit for this purpose. It has open walls, it will be relatively inexpensive to remodel the facility for the vote-by-mail facility...although, it is still not inexpensive. The cost is estimated at approximately \$300,000.

She stated further conversation should be taken up at the Assembly COW on August 9, 2021.

Discussion ensued.

VI. UPDATE on PWFC ACTION ITEMS to ADVANCE 2021 ASSEMBLY GOALS

A. Goal Update Table

1. JCOS Update on Community-wide Data on Energy Usage and GHG Emissions

Ms. Koester asked Steve Banke, JCOS Committee to speak to this item and the work they have completed.

Mr. Banke stated JCOS recommended a consultant be hired to create a modeling tool to move toward the 5.B goal of moving toward reducing the GHG emissions.

Ms. Woll suggested this topic be further considered at the next meeting.

VII. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT

A. June 2, 2021 to July 15, 2021

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

A. Next Regular Meeting will be August 9, 2021

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 PM.