



Environmental Services Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 8, 2022
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Approved on March 9, 2023

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 4:07 P.M.

A quorum was established.

Present:

Alfredo Araiza	Representative, Ward 2
Ryan Thomas	Representative, Ward 3
Yolanda Herrera	Representative, Ward 5
Kris Yarter, Chairperson	Representative, Ward 6
Trevor Ledbetter	Representative, City Manager's Office
Margot Garcia	Representative, City Manager's Office
Michael Herrier	Representative, City Manager's Office
Susanna Schippers	Representative, City Manager's Office

Absent:

Elvira Suarez Din	Representative, Ward 1
VACANT	Representative, City Manager's Office
VACANT	Representative, City Manager's Office
VACANT	Representative, Mayor's Office
VACANT	Representative, Ward 4

Staff Members Present:

Carlos De La Torre	Director, Environmental & General Services Department (EGSD)
Victoria Molt	Finance Manager, Business Services Department (BSD)
Lucy Lucero	Secretary, EGSD

2. Chairperson's Report

It was noted that the requested items from last month have not been ignored, Ward 6 will provide a ByFusion/Plastic Collections Update at the next meeting.

The item request on Mobile Food Truck Vendors was scheduled for the Subcommittee.

3. Director's Report

Carlos De La Torre, EGSD Director shared with the committee:

- **ES Fund, Cost of Service and Rate Design** – Mayor & Council has requested City Departments to approach rate increases with a very comprehensive approach. This meant instead of departments individually proposing rates, that departments rates adjustments for all departments would be presented together.

EGSD had to evaluate the short-term needs to operate, maintain and not sacrifice services when determining this rate. Some factors that were considered, were to reimplement and maintain the fleet replacement program, create a pre/post landfill closure fund, and establish a capital improvement fund.

Over the past few years, the fleet replacement program was modified in order to maintain the department's budget needs by not ordering the programmed number of trucks each year in order to fund other areas of the budget. Also, by allocating \$1 million each to the pre/post landfill closure fund and capital improvement fund and including that in the budget will help calculate the true cost of providing residential services.

Additionally, adding in these fund requirements provides a clearer representation of costs. Using the NewGen Solutions' 3 Year Financial Forecast, Director De La Torre highlighted that without any rate increases for the Department, there would be a \$6 million deficit. A \$6.25 per month increase in the residential rate is suggested, in addition to increases to commercial and landfill fees.

Director De La Torre asked if ESAC would make a motion to support the recommended rate increases before the Next Mayor & Council meeting that will be held on September 27, 2022.

Discussion was held. Some members commented that the department should relook at the City's "Pay as you Throw" program by increasing the price difference between containers based on size and to study future measures for zero waste efforts that support the Climate Action Plan. Other members stated that before showing support for the rate increase proposal they would like to reach out to others in the community.

Committee Member Garcia made a motion to hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 4:00pm to discuss the proposed rate adjustment. Committee Member Schippers seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote of 8 to 0.

Additional discussion was held for staff to review the residential rate increase by percentage verses a flat rate.

4. Zero Waste Discussion

Carlos De La Torre, EGSD Director provided an update on this item. The information ESAC requested at the previous meeting will be sent out after HDR gathers all the information. The department will be providing Mayor and Council with a Zero Waste update at the October Council meeting to share with them the next steps of the Zero Waste Roadmap. The stakeholder meeting will be organized in October with ESAC members being invited.

5. Monthly Finance Report

This item was tabled.

6. Subcommittee Reports, Appointments, Meeting Dates, and Assignments

- **Waste Diversion, Collections, and Education**

The Waste Diversion, Collections, and Education Subcommittee met on September 7, 2022. Subcommittee Member Garcia shared with the committee that she attempted to reach the department to request a neighborhood roll off but she was on hold for over 10 minutes and was not able to schedule one. She also provided a summary from the meeting which included the monthly Materials Recovery Facility report, the amendment to the MRF contract, the Zero Waste event, 2023 Brush & Bulky schedule and other items.

- **Environmental/Engineering**

The Environmental/Engineering Subcommittee did not meet during this time.

- **Finance**

The Finance Subcommittee did not meet during this time.

7. Future Agenda Items

The following items were requested for the next meeting:

- Special ESAC Meeting, September 22, 2022 at 4:00
- Mobile Food Truck Report from Subcommittee

8. Call to the Audience

None.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 P.M.