



Environmental Services Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 12, 2023
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Approved on March 9, 2023

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 4:07 p.m.

A quorum was established.

Present:

Elvira Suarez Din
Ryan Thomas
Yolanda Herrera
Kris Yarter, Chairperson
Margot Garcia
Michael Herrier
Susanna Schippers

Representative, Ward 1
Representative, Ward 3
Representative, Ward 5
Representative, Ward 6
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office

Absent:

Alfredo Araiza
Trevor Ledbetter
VACANT
VACANT
VACANT
VACANT

Representative, Ward 2
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, Mayor's Office
Representative, Ward 4

Staff Members Present:

Carlos De La Torre, P.E.

Pat L. Tapia
Brittany Aldrich
Eva Ahumada

Director, Environmental & General
Services Department (EGSD)
Deputy Director, EGSD
Staff Assistant, EGSD
Executive Assistant, EGSD

2. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Yarter started the meeting wishing everyone a Happy New Year and congratulating Director De La Torre and staff for all their hard work preparing for the departments rate increases.

3. Director’s Report

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

- Proposed ES Rate Adjustments** – The proposed rate adjustments for residential, commercial and landfill were approved at the January 11, 2023, Council Meeting. This rate adjustment will help outline the budget and highlight what resources are needed and where the department’s budget should be Director De La Torre explained that the residential rates were presented in a two-year, tiered implementation plan, with Mayor and Council approving the first adjustment for FY 2023. The changes to the Residential Rates will be in effect on February 13, 2023, and are as follows:

	Service	Proposed Rate (per month)	Current Rate (per month)	Change
FY 2023	48 gallons	\$18.25	\$15.00	\$3.25
	65 gallons	\$19.25	\$16.00	\$3.25
	95 gallons	\$20.00	\$16.75	\$3.25
	Any shared alley APC	\$19.25	\$16.00 per dwelling unit	\$3.25
	300 sole use	\$51.25	\$48.00 per container	\$3.25
	Individual fee for shared front load weekly refuse and recycling service	\$19.25	\$16.00 per dwelling unit	\$3.25
	Additional refuse	\$14.25	\$11.00 per dwelling unit	\$3.25
	APC delivery fee	\$25.00	\$20.00 per occurrence	\$5.00
	APC removal/delivery fee	\$50.00	\$40.00 per occurrence	\$10.00

The second implementation of the residential rate was approved with the stipulation that the department will review the commercial rates prior to the next adjustment. The adjustment will be in effect on January 1, 2024, for the next fiscal year. Mayor & Council asked the department to complete a cost analysis of commercial services, and the fee structure that is associated with those services.

Director De La Torre noted that when establishing rates for each service (residential, commercial, landfill) it has been based on a cost of service structure but a more in-depth analysis is required to determine what the market can bear when paying for these services. After a study can be conducted the information will be presented at Mayor & Council in November 2023 to determine if other adjustments are required

The second tiered rate implementation for residential rates are as follows:

	Service	Proposed Rate (per month)	Current Rate (per month)	Change
FY 2024	48 gallons	\$21.25	\$18.25	\$3.00
	65 gallons	\$22.25	\$19.25	\$3.00
	95 gallons	\$23.00	\$20.00	\$3.00
	Any shared alley APC	\$22.25	\$19.25 per dwelling unit	\$3.00
	300 sole use	\$54.25	\$51.25 per container	\$3.00
	Individual fee for shared front load weekly refuse and recycling service	\$22.25	\$19.25 per dwelling unit	\$3.00
	Additional refuse	\$17.25	\$14.25 per dwelling unit	\$3.00

Another component the department was asked to review was the current contract with Republic Services as our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) provider. With Republic Services being the only service provider to process recycled commodities, it allows them to control the cost to the City. Mayor & Council would like to review what options the City has before the current contract ends.

Commercial rates were increased by 10 percent across the board and the landfill gate rate for commercial haulers was also increased by \$3.00 effective February 13, 2023. These rate adjustments equate to approximately \$3.5 million for the Enterprise budget.

Questions were asked and answered. No action was taken.

4. Zero Waste Discussion

Staff is currently reviewing the draft of the Zero Waste Plan which was prepared by HDR Consultants. Over the next few weeks staff will meet with HDR to discuss any changes for the final document. After this is complete, a copy of the draft plan will be provided to ESAC for any modification before presenting it to Mayor & Council. The department is hoping to present this item to Mayor & Council before they adopt the Climate Action Plan and the Tucson Resiliency Plan. This is tentatively scheduled for the March Mayor & Council Meeting.

Director De La Torre noted that there are some uncertainties regarding capital improvement cost which came in higher than anticipated. The department will plan to apply for a grant that can help with some of the zero waste implantation goals.

If awarded the grant, the department will create an organic and food waste drop-off program that would be supervised by staff.

5. Monthly Finance Report

Director De La Torre presented this item. The committee was informed that Vickey Molt, EGSD's Finance Manager accepted a position with the University of Arizona. Her last day was Friday January 6th, and the department has not been reassigned a new Finance Manager from the Business Services Department.

The current Financial Report was presented. The revenue, Capital Projects and Expenditure Report was discussed.

The following end totals of these reports are as follows:

Revenues (total)		
FY 2022 Actuals	FY 2023 Adopted	FY 2023 Projected
\$57,884,210	\$53,331,300	\$56,199,760

Capital Projects (total)		
FY 2022 Actuals	FY 2023 Adopted	FY 2023 Projected
\$1,577,807	\$13,850,000	\$9,320,170

Expenditures (total)	
FY 2022 Actuals	FY 2023 Adopted
\$68,967,570	\$63,329,370

It was asked when WorkDay will generate accurate reports with year-to-date actuals. Director De La Torre stated that central Finance is working continuously on this issue, and they hope within 90 days the reporting function will be functional.

No action was taken on this item.

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

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

The Waste Diversion, Collections, and Education Subcommittee did not meet in January due to the lack of quorum. Subcommittee Member Garcia did share information on the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Report.

- **Environmental/Engineering**

The Environmental/Engineering Subcommittee did not hold a meeting during this time.

- **Finance**

The Finance Subcommittee did not hold a meeting during this time.

Director De La Torre suggested to temporarily pause the subcommittees for the time being and the topics normally discussed at these subcommittees would be placed on the full ESAC agenda.

Discussion was held. Some concerns were noted like not being able to discuss all the issues at full ESAC. It was requested to place this topic at the next meeting.

7. Future Agenda Items

The following items were requested for the next meeting:

- Subcommittee Meetings
- Gas to Energy

8. Call to the Audience

None.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 P.M.