

Metro

*600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov*



Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

2:00 PM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes and Councilors Craig Dirksen, Bob Stacey, Shirley Craddick, Sam Chase, Carlotta Collette, and Kathryn Harrington

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:04 pm.

2:05 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Ms. Martha Bennett, Metro's Chief Operating Officer, announced that Far West Fibers (now called Far West Recycling) would cease accepting bulky rigid plastics and mixed plastics at its recycling facilities. Ms. Bennett added that Solid Waste staff members were present during the work session if any of the Councilor's had questions regarding the change in procedure by Far West Fibers. Ms. Bennett then noted that the evacuation order for Multnomah County had been lifted, which meant that Oxbow Regional Park would reopen. Afterwards, Ms. Bennett shared a draft letter prepared on behalf of the Council, which sought Portland's support for increased flexibility for general bond spending towards affordable housing.

Work Session Topics:**2:10 Material Recovery Facility/Conversion Technology Project Update**

Mr. Paul Slyman, Director of Property and Environmental Services, shared that the work session would be an opportunity for the Council to review proposed amendments for Metro Code Title V (chapters 5.00 and

5.01). The amendments were related to licensing and oversight of certain material recovery and conversion technology facilities that receive source-separated recyclable materials. Mr. Slyman then briefly introduced Mr. Dan Blue, a senior planner with Metro's Property and Environmental Services department. Mr. Slyman indicated that in order to provide a comprehensive approach to solid waste code changes, Metro staff had developed three tracts; work for the first tract would be shared during the work session, and it would mainly relate to public outreach and amendment highlights. Mr. Blue shared that with direction from Council, a Material Recovery Facility (MRF)/ Conversion Technology (CT) subcommittee was launched in December 2015. The subcommittee then had code recommendations reviewed and endorsed by the Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC) in October 2016. Mr. Blue then shared that workshops and a 60-day comment period were held in order for the public and other stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed code amendments. Beginning with Code Chapter 5.00, Mr. Blue stated that the only changes were the addition of definitions for 'conversion technology' and 'specific material recycler. In regard to Code Chapter 5.01, Mr. Blue shared that changes included:

- Removed exemption from Metro authorization for source separated recyclables material recovery facilities
- Established an exemption for specific material recyclers
- Exemption for certain CT facilities
- General housekeeping updates for solid waste code

In regard to the public comment and outreach efforts, Mr. Blue reiterated that a 60 day public comment period was available until July 14, 2017, and two stakeholder workshops were held. Mr. Blue indicated that there were

few comments on the code amendments, whereas most of the comments had related to the draft administrative rules for applying the amendments. When discussing public engagement further, Mr. Blue spoke to concerns from industry stakeholders regarding clarifying definitions in chapter 5.00 and the potential impacts of solid waste licenses on existing business if the amendments were to be approved. Mr. Blue noted that the first read for an ordinance approving the code changes would appear on the October 5, 2017 Council meeting agenda. The second read for the ordinance would occur during the October 26, 2017 Council meeting and the code changes would take into effect on January 1, 2019.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Harrington inquired staff on housekeeping code changes regarding obligation and limits for selected types of solid waste facilities. Councilor Craddick asked Mr. Slyman what regional benefit the code changes and ensuing oversight would bring to solid waste operations. Mr. Slyman explained that more agency oversight would improve regional waste operations, especially in promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, along with efficiency standards.

2:40 Governance Options for Columbia River Levee System

Councilor Craddick recalled that because of the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) instituted an accreditation system for the proper maintenance and readiness of levee systems. However, the current governance structure (which would be elaborated further by staff) of the Columbia River Levee System would make maintaining accreditation, and coordinating technological updates of the levee system difficult.

Mr. Scott Robinson, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, shared that work on the Columbia River levee governance and finance options had begun in 2012 with a few participating bodies including: Multnomah County, City of Portland, Port of Portland, and City of Fairview. Mr. Jim Middaugh, Director of Communications, shared that Metro was working under the rubric of Levee Ready Columbia (LRC), a partnership focused on a common approach to floodplain management. There were two major phases that the LRC was focused on: technical assessment of the Columbia River levee system and a governance structure for maintaining the financial and technological integrity of the flood management system. Mr. Middaugh conveyed to Council that the work session presentation would mainly focus on the governance structure of the levee system. Mr. Middaugh shared a few principles that would potentially revamp the current structure:

1. Restructure existing drainage districts to increase coordination, efficiency, equity, and accountability
2. Rather than acreage, restructure the rate system to have a stronger nexus with flood control and storm water management. Mr. Andy Cotugno, Senior Policy Advisor, shared that acreage size led to disparity in representation when voting for members to the drainage districts
3. A regional funding contribution system or transfer of operating responsibility to the Port of Portland, Metro, or a new entity established by the (Oregon) Legislature
4. As an addition to a revised funding approach, require Oregon State and federal contributions towards the flood management system

Mr. Middaugh then requested feedback from Council regarding the principles associated with the potential governance structure for the Columbia River levee system.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Collette asked staff about the role Multnomah County was playing for the current process of restructuring the financial and governance structure of the levee system. She also asked about the participation of Burlington Northern Railroad. Mr. Middaugh explained the Burlington Northern Railroad was not participating. Councilor Craddick inquired staff regarding the potential leadership role of the Port of Portland and whether it could serve as an operational authority to implement a utility fee for maintaining the levee system. Councilor Chase asked staff about the reservations the City of Portland had about the Port of Portland serving as a lead authority over the levee system for the Columbia River. Mr. Middaugh explained that the City of Portland was wary about the amount of influence the Port of Portland would have. Councilor Harrington wanted to know whether the drainage district board meetings were open to the public. Mr. Middaugh explained that board meetings were not open to the public.

3:25 Councilor Liaison Updates and Council Communication

Councilor Harrington approved of the draft letter that was introduced by Ms. Bennett during the Chief Operating Officer communication.

3:35 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:15 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Amaanjit Singh, Council Policy Assistant

