



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (ES) ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ESAC)

Minutes

Approved on July 14, 2016
Thursday, May 12, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
Ward 6 Council Office Conference Room
3202 E. 1st St.
Tucson, AZ

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ginter, ESAC Chairperson at 5:08 P.M.

Those present and absent were:

Present:

Ron Ewing	Representative, Ward 2
David Reed	Representative, Ward 3
Dan Uthe	Representative, Ward 6
Debra Rodriguez	Representative, Mayor's Office
Ann Marie Wolf	Representative, City Manager's Office
Kristin Ginter (Chair)	Representative, City Manager's Office
Margot Garcia	Representative, City Manager's Office

Absent:

Catherine Schladweiler	Representative, City Manager's Office
Sandra Fimbres	Representative, City Manager's Office
VACANT	Representative, City Manager's Office
VACANT	Representative, Ward 1
VACANT	Representative, Ward 4
VACANT	Representative, Ward 5

Staff Members Present:

Pat L. Tapia	Interim Director, ES
Alicia Roberson	Finance Manager, ES
Brittany Aldrich	Recording Secretary, ES
Michael Wyneken	Interim Administrator, Code Enforcement

2. Approval of Minutes for April 14, 2016

Committee Member Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes of April 14, 2016 with two corrections on page two and page three. Committee Member Ewing seconded. Motion passed by voice vote of 7 to 0.

3. Chairperson's Report

None

4. Director's Report

Interim Director Tapia provided an update on the following:

- **ES Staffing** – The City would plan a national recruitment for the director position. The City Manager's Office appointed Pat Tapia as the Interim Director of Environmental Services. Interim Director Tapia announced Chris Leverenz would act as Interim Deputy Director during the recruitment process.
- **Town Hall Meetings** – Four Town Hall meetings were held for members of the public to attend regarding the proposed changes to the Environmental Services fees. The meetings were held in conjunction with the Tucson Water Department.
- **10th Avenue Container Maintenance Facility** – An update on the demolition project was provided to the Committee. Notifications of construction would be mailed to the surrounding Tucson and City of South Tucson residents. The demolition construction should take an estimated time of six weeks and the demolished concrete would be reused to fill in the old transfer station pit to help with cost.
- **Rio Nuevo Odor Issues** – A complaint was received from a member of the public regarding an 'egg smell' near the Rio Nuevo Landfill. Environmental Services staff inspected the methane gas wells for any abnormalities at the landfill. None were found, but staff would continue to monitor it for any changes.

No action was taken on these items.

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

- **Environmental/Engineering** – No subcommittee meeting was held during this time.
- **Finance** – The subcommittee meeting was held on April 27, 2016. Subcommittee Chairperson Ewing provided an overview from the meeting. A Finance Subcommittee recommendation was provided during Item 7 related to proposed fee changes. Subcommittee Chairperson Ewing reported the subcommittee recommended removing the commercial recycling surcharge and increasing commercial fees by 5%.
- **Waste Diversion, Collections, and Education** – No subcommittee meeting was held during this time.

6. Code Enforcement Presentation

Michael Wyneken, Code Enforcement Interim Administrator, provided an overview of the Code Enforcement program and the process of handling violations. Some issues the program had were related to improper safety equipment, outdated technology, recovering cost and other issues. Code Enforcement's transition to Environmental Services would occur July 1, 2016.

7. Environmental Services Fee Changes

Interim Director Tapia provided information on this item. Meetings were held between Environmental Services staff and each Mayor and Council Ward office to further explain the rate changes to Chapter 15 of the Tucson City Code.

The proposed fee changes included:

Commercial Collections Fee – A 5% increase to commercial waste collection fees was proposed. The economic drivers for this increase were equipment replacement costs, loss of recycling revenue, and maintenance of the existing fleet.

Chairperson Ginter made a motion to support the 5% increase to the Commercial Collections Fee as proposed. Committee Member Garcia seconded. Motion passed by a voice vote of 7 to 0.

Community Services Fee – A \$1.11 fee to cover the cost for both the Code Enforcement and Graffiti Abatement programs and to remove the funding of these programs from the General Fund was proposed. The \$1.11 fee would be a new fee and would appear in the Environmental Services section of the utility bill as a separate line item.

Discussion was held. Committee Member Garcia commented that she would like to see Code Enforcement recover costs with inspection fees or violation fines instead of establishing a Community Services Fee. Committee Member Wolf stated she did not feel that this was an Environmental Services Fee and that Code Enforcement was a General Funded activity and should remain in the General Fund. Committee Member Garcia asked how customers not tied to a water meter would be billed the fee.

Committee Member Uthe made a motion to not support the Community Services Fee. Committee Member Wolf commented that Code Enforcement would remain a General Funded program.

Chairperson Ginter clarified the motion under consideration was to not support the Community Services Fee because Code Enforcement and Graffiti Abatement should be services provided by the General Fund. Committee Member Garcia seconded. Motion passed by voice vote of 6 to 1 (Committee Member Ewing dissenting).

Groundwater Protection Fee – A \$1.11 per month fee would help fund the storm water quality program. This was a proposed \$0.07 per month increase for a 5/8" meter connection.

Committee Member Garcia moved to support the Groundwater Protection Fee increase. Committee Member Rodriguez seconded. Committee Member Wolf recused herself due to a conflict of interest. Motion passed by voice vote of 6 to 0.

*Ratification of Groundwater Protection Fee was made at the May 24, 2016 meeting.

Residential Recycling Surcharge – A \$0.45 surcharge for the residential recycling was proposed. The surcharge amount would change quarterly in increments of \$0.15 per month when recycling revenues rebound in \$250,000 increments and would appear as its own line item on the utilities bill.

Committee Member Garcia made a motion to approve the Residential Recycling Surcharge. Committee Member Ewing seconded. Motion passed by voice vote of 6 to 1 (Committee Member Uthe dissenting).

8. Financial Update

Ms. Roberson provided information on this item. No action taken at this time.

9. Future Agenda Items for Next Meeting (July 14, 2016)

No meeting would be held during the month of June.

- Tire/Fleet Maintenance Update
- Code Enforcement Update
- ESAC Work Plan Review

10. Call to the Audience

None

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 P.M.