



## COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers, 10722 SE Main Street  
& Zoom Video Conference ([www.milwaukieoregon.gov](http://www.milwaukieoregon.gov))

## MINUTES

MAY 17, 2022

**Council Present:** Councilors Lisa Batey, Desi Nicodemus, and Mayor Mark Gamba

**Council Absent:** Council President Hyzy

**Staff Present:**

Steve Adams, City Engineer	Dan Harris, Events & Emergency Management Coordinator
Kelly Brooks, Assistant City Manager	Keith McClung, Assistant Finance Director
Bonnie Dennis, Administrative Services Director	Ann Ober, City Manager
Jennifer Garbely, Assistant City Engineer	Scott Stauffer, City Recorder
Justin Gericke, City Attorney	

**Mayor Gamba** called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

### 1. Solid Waste Rates – Discussion

**McClung** explained that new rates for solid waste were expected to be adopted in June and take effect July 1 and introduced Chris Bell of Bell and Associates. **Bell** presented the overall adjusted rate of return that factored in Metro's forecasted rate increases over the next four to five years. **Bell** recommended increasing solid waste rates due to tipping fees and organic collection fees.

**Bell** advised that while Waste Management (WM) is still in negotiations with the teamsters' union who represents the drivers, four other collection companies had reached an agreement with the union to provide a 6% increase for projected inflation. It is likely WM will follow and that increase would take place in January 2023.

**Councilor Batey** and **Bell** discussed waste haulers and noted that 86% of city residents were serviced by WM.

**Councilor Batey**, **Bell**, and **Mayor Gamba** went over why the rate of return is so low on drop boxes and why the city would not increase fees for those services.

The group discussed a previous conversation around whether businesses within the city were allowed to utilize other waste hauler providers, noting that the exclusivity contract with WM and Kahut Waste Services prohibited the use of outside entities.

**McClung**, **Mayor Gamba**, and **Bell** clarified what collection service options were provided to restaurants.

**Councilor Batey** stated that Bell's suggestions for rate increases were modest. **Batey**, **Bell**, and **Mayor Gamba** discussed what risk the city would take on if inflation affected the rate of return, and the calculation for the increase in tipping fees.

### 2. Safe Access for Everyone (SAFE) and Street Surface Maintenance Program (SSMP) – Annual Update

**Adams** introduced the topic and **Garbely** presented the program goals for SAFE and SSMP. **Councilor Batey** asked for a clarification on the SSMP goal of completing the 10-year project streets and **Garbely** explained that staff had been working on a list of streets that was compiled when the project was first started.

**Garbely** shared what maintenance had been completed on arterial, collector, and neighborhood streets in comparison to last year, where the city would focus over the next six years, and how the budget had increased to complete SSMP projects.

**Mayor Gamba** and **Garbely** discussed Lake Road and 32nd Avenue as examples of streets that need maintenance. **Councilor Batey** and **Garbely** addressed the frequency of slurry seal projects every year instead of every other year. **Mayor Gamba** asked what is entailed in using geogrid in road work and **Garbely** clarified that fabric or mat grids are used on top of a base for structural support and then paved over and that this new technique will be used in the Ardenwald North project. **Adams** provided additional information on the positive aspects of using geo grid on low traffic streets.

The group discussed construction crew responsibilities for damage done to streets.

**Garbely** reviewed results from the city’s 2022 community survey regarding residents willing to pay more to have streets maintained. The group discussed what the budget would need to be to address all roads, if there was a major design change to all neighborhood streets to make them more people friendly, and the relevancy of these conversations as the city moved toward the Transportation System Plan (TSP) update.

**Garbely** shared plans for the remaining 9-year integrated program goals and **Councilor Batey** confirmed these plans were included in the original goals for SSMP. The group discussed the use and benefits of shared paths over sidewalks.

**Garbely** presented how many miles of paving, paths, sidewalks, and number of Americans with Disability Act (ADA) ramps would be installed after currently ongoing projects were completed. **Councilor Batey**, **Mayor Gamba**, and **Garbely** briefly discussed the single sided sidewalk to be installed along Home Avenue.

**Garbely** provided an update on what projects are in design. **Councilor Batey** and **Garbely** noted that the Washington Area Improvements project was originally named the El Puente project. **Mayor Gamba** asked if all funds from the community development block grant (CDBG) would be used specifically for ADA ramps, as some sidewalks are not safe and accessible for wheelchair or stroller users due to utility poles. The group discussed locations and the timeline for resolving narrow sidewalk issues, and what is entailed with Portland General Electric (PGE) moving the utility poles.

**Garbely** mentioned that the county’s vehicle registration fee (VRF) had generated \$411,000 for the city in 2021 and was expected to bring in about \$450,000 in 2022.

The group summarized that there had been positive feedback on the completed and planned projects and other cities had taken notice of the city’s projects. **Councilor Batey** asked if the county was on track for their portion of the Linwood Avenue SAFE project and **Adams** believed the county should be completed by fall 2023. **Mayor Gamba** asked if someone from the city had given a talk at the Active Transportation Summit and **Garbely** replied that staff had given a presentation on the River Road and 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SAFE project.

**3. Carefree Sunday and Events – Update**

**Harris** reported on the events the city has hosted over the last year and gave credit to public works staff for their work on Earth Day and the Scott Park open house.

**Harris** gave an overview of the city’s new mascot, Millie the Goose, and described how the character had been established.

**Harris** highlighted upcoming events, including Pride hosted by the city on June 4 at the South Downtown Plaza and Juneteenth on June 18 at Water Tower Park. **Harris** explained that the Plaza was a reservable venue for events and mentioned the fee for reserving the space. Information for reserving the Plaza would be in the Pilot newsletter and the weekly neighborhood district association (NDA) announcement email.

**Councilor Batey** was disappointed that the Plaza was only available to reserve on the weekends but was okay with the city using the next year as a test run and expressed concern that tenants of the future Coho Point at Kellogg Creek building and surrounding area would need to be made aware that the Plaza had been built for hosting events and being closed to vehicle traffic. **Harris** stated staff will continue working on communication with tenants and return to council to further the conversation of creating a lively downtown.

**Harris** presented the latest information on the city's Carefree Sunday event, noting the event dates and route, NDA discussions, sponsorship recruitment, and that the city had again hired Axiom Event Productions as the event consultant. **Councilor Batey** pointed out that the city may move up the event date in the future. **Harris** noted that major reasons for looking at a new event date was that the city's three largest events occur towards the end of the year and August had been getting hotter with wildfires and smoke causing a threat. **Harris** reported that staff had been looking at moving the event to May. **Mayor Gamba** and **Councilor Batey** agreed with plan to change the date.

**Harris** shared a map of the Carefree Sunday route and stated it was the same route planned for 2019 but had not been used due to construction projects going on at that time. **Harris, Councilor Batey,** and **Mayor Gamba** discussed the terrain of the route. **Harris** mentioned working with engineering on traffic control plans.

**Harris** noted where anyone interested in volunteering to work on Carefree Sunday could get information. **Councilor Batey** confirmed the route would be going along Monroe Street where Grace Point Church had a previously sponsored a stop and had provided volunteers. **Harris** replied that conversations with Grace Point had been occurring and the church was excited to come back again in 2022.

**Harris** gave a brief update on combining the city's two winter events, noting that after speaking with the representatives of the Portland Christmas Ships there would be too much required to rearrange on the sailing schedule so the Umbrella Parade and Tree Lighting and Winter Solstice would remain two separate events.

**Councilor Nicodemus** thanks staff for their assistance in planning the Juneteenth event's traffic route.

#### **4. Adjourn**

**Mayor Gamba** adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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 Nicole Madigan, Deputy City Recorder

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