



Environmental Quality & Public Works (EQPW) Committee

March 11, 2025

Summary and Motions

Chair Hannah LeGris called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Committee Members Dave Sevigny, James Brown, Tyler Morton, Emma Curtis, Liz Sheehan, Joseph Hale, Amy Beasley, and Hil Boone were present. Committee Member Denise Gray was absent. Vice Mayor Dan Wu and Council Member Shayla Lynch were present as non-voting members.

I. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 11, 2025 COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Motion by Sevigny to approve the February 11, 2025 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Summary. Seconded by Beasley. Motion passed without dissent.

II. STATUS UPDATE: ENERGY INITIATIVES

James Bush, Energy Initiatives Section Manager, provided an outline and reviewed the utility expenses for FY24 and the prior-year comparison for FY21- FY24. In 2025, water increased by 19%, gas increased by 7%, and electricity is TBD. He reviewed FY25 solar projects and said the cost savings estimate is just under \$8000 for the first year. An RFP for the Police East Sector is anticipated for FY25. There is a potential cost share with Parks for the Bates Creek Ballroom, and we are working to pursue federal rebates for LFUCG solar projects. Police West Sector Training Center, located on Old Frankfort Pike, is a 2024 project with a year 1 cost savings of \$4,547. This facility used 71% solar energy, reducing purchased electricity by 30%.

Bush reviewed the EIF balance (as of 2/24/25): The general fund was fully expended at the FY24 close; balances include allocation plus earmarks for solar projects. There will be minor allocation requests in the mayor's Proposed Budget for FY26 in anticipation of a federal grant (EECBG). Other funding requests have been paused and will proceed on a project basis from year to year. Moving forward, there will be a continued emphasis on solar photovoltaic (PV) and coordinating with new and re-roofing projects. The Senior Therapeutic Center will be the first building to include PV in construction. High-performance buildings require a policy/directive.

Speaking about solar installation at the Senior Therapeutic Center, Bush confirmed the life of solar is about 20 years. When asked if there have been repairs or replacements due to storms, Bush said there have been minor repairs but no replacements. Speaking about the funding source and if the 19% increase to water includes hydrants, Bush confirmed this does include hydrants and comes out of the General Fund budget. When asked if public sectors can get federal rebates, Bush said this was a change in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), so nonprofits and public entities can now apply. When asked if we are exploring transparent panels, Bush said these are primarily used for growing crops in the research realm instead of the roof installations we do for energy savings. **No action was taken on this item.**

III. PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Nancy Albright, Commissioner of Environmental Quality & Public Works (EQPW), presented a review of the Pavement Management Plan. The Paving Subcommittee reconvened in 2022 to update the Pavement Management Plan, and in 2023, recommended updates were approved for FY24. She reviewed the adopted budget versus expenditures and said the fluctuation between the two is attributed to contractors and scheduled projects. One of the changes with the 2022 revision is creating a service/industrial roads category with funding flexibility in the budget for arterials. She reviewed project prioritization and explained the budget allocation by road class. Since the FY26 budget figures are unavailable, she utilized the FY25 budget to explain how funds are allocated.

She reviewed the local road lane miles by council district with an Overall Condition Index (OCI) of less than 60. She reviewed the paving calendar and said the paving season begins in April and runs through December. The Paving Sharing Program seeks to coordinate LFUCG paving priorities and combine efforts to provide the highest quality finished paving surface at the lowest cost. Paving priorities must align with utility construction projects and timelines, and utilities must request to participate in paving sharing. Moving forward, staff will streamline and find efficiencies through coordination with utilities, update paving scores with new field survey data, and pursue software integration designed for GIS mapping.

There was some discussion about paving sharing with utilities. Albright said they try to plan around other projects (road work and utilities). When asked how Traffic Calming would be done in areas where other stormwater projects are being done with utilities, Albright said this would be a special case because other divisions are involved. **No action was taken on this item.**

IV. HALEY PIKE LANDFILL SOLAR FEASIBILITY STUDY

Richard Dugas, Administrative Officer in the EQPW Commissioner's Office, began with a history of the feasibility study. Currently, there are two active operations: Creech Inc. and Red River Ranch. With Old Frankfort Pike and Haley Pike landfills identified on the re-powering America Website, LFUCG received inquiries about solar development at these locations. As a result of these inquiries, an internal study was completed, subsequently named the Phase 0 study. External subject matter experts were utilized for site evaluation, regulatory analysis, financial viability, and estimate cost for future phases. Phase 2A includes an industrial-grade audit (surveying, settlement testing, RFP document preparation). Phase 2B would consist of a legal review, RFP, and lease preparation.

When asked if we have more allowance with a government project on government land rather than a private project on government land, Dugas said we still own the land, so we are involved in the planning review process. When asked if this would be an RFP process, Dugas said it would fall under the RFP requirements for what we want to see out of this and would set parameters. When asked what process was used to do this since the decision was made not to finance or bond this, Dugas said this came from the administration. Clarifying the 312/687 acres identified, Dugas explained that 687 is complete acreage, and 312 was identified as best used for solar. **No action was taken on this item.**

V. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

No Action was taken on this item.

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.