



Environmental Quality Committee
January 28th, 2014
Summary and Motions

Council Member Stinnett called the meeting to order at 11:00am. Council Members Gorton, Akers, Farmer, Scutchfield, Myers, Clarke and Henson were present. Council Members Mossotti and Lane were absent. Council Member Kay was present as a non-voting attendee.

1. November 12, 2013 Committee Summary

Motion by Scutchfield to approve the November 12, 2013 committee summary. Seconded by Gorton. Motion passed without dissent.

2. Keep Lexington Beautiful Annual Report

Jim Pendergest provided the Keep Lexington Beautiful annual report to the committee.

Scutchfield asked what the enforcement results were for the new littering law. Pendergest did not know the number. Scutchfield felt it was useful and asked if we could get it. She requested that we track this information going forward.

Farmer commented on the success of the Richmond Rd. clean up and asked what kind of outreach was planned going forward. Pendergest said that had partnered with Lowe's and planned some smaller projects and had assigned a group to work with neighborhoods to give grants for clean up type projects.

Henson commented on the change in the litter law. It gives the government the option of citing as criminal or civil (ex. dump sites - criminal), everyday littering can be civil.

Myers asked if an illegally placed yard sign fit the definition. Jarvis stated that this was a code issue. Myers wants to abate illegally placed yard signs, would this fit under the new state law. Jarvis said we could look at this locally as part of KLB. Myers asked for research on the issue and a report to the committee.

Stinnett asked what the annual budget is for KLB. Pendergest said they are funded by donations and do not currently receive support from the City. Their current annual budget is \$16K.

3. Waste Management Audit Follow Up

Bruce Sahli provided an update on the waste management audit to the committee.

Henson asked Hamilton/Martin how Council could be assured when they get these audits, some of which are alarming, going forward that there will be follow up and things are going to continue to get better. Hamilton stated that the Mayor met with IA quarterly to and his concern is also follow up. He feels that IA needs to go back in to ensure that changes are being made. Hamilton added that they (Administration) need to take these audits and follow up as managers and not just rely on IA to point out when issues have not been addresses or corrected.

Stinnett stated that there many of the items addressed in the audit are the result of communication issues (SOPs are not communicated), how have we corrected communication in the division and how is it working now. Martin stated that there was a leadership change in December and the approach they are taking the approach of trying to eliminate the filters as that seems to be a big part of the communication problem. When they visit they stop in and talk with the front line employees first rather than just go straight to the second floor. He has also reassigned an employee to be located in the Commissioner's office to focus on the standard operating procedures because he didn't create them and would like the opportunity to look at them a little more closely particularly how they relate to what is done in water quality. They are also going to focus on regular ongoing communication rather than issuing a memo.

Clarke asked about uniforms for waste management employees being classified as a benefit and pointed out that the audit findings seem to contradict this stating that uniforms are excluded from wages if they are required for employment (page 14). Sahli stated that it depends on the type of uniform and whether it can be worn outside of the workplace (boots, polo shirts, etc.). This was mentioned to ensure that if there was an IRS requirement that we are following it. Sahli added that he had added a lot more follow ups to the internal audit plan that was approved by the board.

4. Monthly Financials

O'Mara provided an overview of the monthly financials for the sanitary sewer operating fund (4002) and pointed out that the second revenue line (\$6.2M) actually belongs in the next fund (construction fund) and will be corrected. The remaining information is just a snap shot of where we are in the year. Page 47, water quality fund, page 48 newly created construction fund for water quality and landfill is on page 49, all are for the first 6 months thru December 31st.

Stinnett asked if there could be a brief comment on the revenues. It appears we are ahead of schedule for the first 6 months on all revenues, are revenues coming in as we projected given the new LexServ bill and the billing system on these three funds. O'Mara said they are in the process of an extensive research and verification of our collection rate. They are vetting the information received by Cincinnati water to be sure it is interpreted correctly and he would like to add this to the agenda for next month to be sure he has the information evaluated properly before sharing. Stinnett added that it looks like revenues are higher. O'Mara stated that they are trying to determine why.

5. Items Referred

Stinnett walked the committee through the referred items list.

Stinnett asked for a report back on the UK game day solid waste collection issue to see if it needs to remain in committee. Stinnett also asked for a report back on the bulky item collection issue. Farmer asked that the committee look at these two issues and see what the revenue sources are before dropping them.

Motion by Myers to remove the division of water quality construction process from the committee referral list. Seconded by Scutchfield. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Farmer to remove the annual report on public education effectiveness from the committee referral list. Seconded by Scutchfield. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Myers to remove the waste management expenditure audit from the committee referral list. Seconded by Scutchfield. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Farmer to adjourn. Seconded by Clarke. Motion passed without dissent.