



Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

September 17, 2019

Summary and Motions

Vice-Chair F. Brown called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Committee Members Steve Kay, Richard Moloney, Josh McCurn, Jake Gibbs, Angela Evans, Preston Worley, Jennifer Mossotti, and Amanda Bledsoe were present. Chair Bill Farmer, Jr. was absent. Council Members Jennifer Reynolds, and Kathy Plomin were also in attendance as non-voting members.

I. Approval of August 20, 2019 Committee Summary

A motion was made by VM Kay to approve the August 20, 2019 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Summary, seconded by CM McCurn. The motion passed without dissent.

II. Leaf Collection Update

Rob Allen, Director of Streets and Roads, presented the Leaf Collection item and highlighted the collection schedule for areas throughout Lexington. He pointed out that the contractor has adopted a Sunday and Wednesday leaf “set-out” schedule and he explained the alternative leaf disposal methods. He reviewed the communication plan explained the social media platforms, web site and media outlets. Lastly, he described the interactive map which will allow the residents to type in their address and locate their scheduled time.

CM Gibbs asked if the cost includes the disposal fee and asked if the leaves go to the Red River facility and Allen said the leaves are transported to Red River facility by Waste Management staff which is combined with the yard waste, but he does not have those exact figures. Gibbs asked for a breakdown of the Waste Management budget when that is available. When asked if the leaf collection program started because of sewage, Allen said it was a water quality issue. Gibbs asked how effective it has been at staying out of sewers and Allen said there has been no analysis of this. Gibbs expressed concern with the amount of money we spend for leaf clean up when there are other efforts that could be made such as individuals composting the leaves.

CM Bledsoe said the complaint she gets most often is that the collection is too early and she asked what the theory is behind the schedule. Allen said there are several trees in the “D” zone which hold their leaves longer and there are trees in the 10th district which tend to drop leaves earlier. He said weather has a lot to do with it as well, but they have to start somewhere. Allen said this a complimentary service and people should be mindful that the yard waste cart is still available. Bledsoe commented on the academy we have for getting drivers a CDL license and Allen explained that 6 drivers have gone through this academy and they are still working for LFUCG.

CM Reynolds asked how to know if collection will take place when it supposed to. Allen said individuals can check the interactive map to track the “set out” schedule and determine when to put the leaves out for pick up. He added that the LexCall operators are very helpful with this process.

CM Moloney expressed concern about this being a service for only those who have city services and he asked if there is another option to consider so everyone can benefit. He also asked if this is really helping the sewer system. He spoke about the history of leaf collection and how there are several districts

where people do not have the city services and because of that they do not have leaf collection. He said if this really is keeping sewers cleared, we need to look at providing leaf collection for everyone.

CM Evans commented that this is appropriate for Think-Lex. She said this isn't something we want to discontinue but it is supplemental and we should consider other ideas for doing this more efficiently. She asked if there are changes that have been suggested. Allen said feedback and new ideas are always coming in from front line employees.

CM Mossotti asked if all of the leaves are taken to Haley Pike to be mulched. Allen said they are taken to the Red River composting facility where they are mulched and recycled. Mossotti asked if people who do not receive this collection can take them to be composted. Allen explained that they can take them to Haley Pike, but not to the Red River facility. Mossotti asked what private waste collection does with the leaves. Allen said they should be dropped off at our facility as part of our contract. Mossotti mentioned that her office gets calls every year about leaf collection because so many do not receive the service.

CM Moloney asked if we are only paying for the leaves to be hauled to our facility and Allen said yes. Moloney asked if private collectors take the leaves to their landfill and, if so, we need to fix this problem so everyone can have leaf collection.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

III. 5G Wireless Small Cells

Aldona Valicenti, Chief Information Officer, provided an update on the installation process of the 5G Wireless Cells around Lexington. She explained the history of wireless and where we are going. She reviewed the reasons why small cells are required and said there are standards we have to adhere to. She described the strategic plan and the 5G FCC Regulation. She continued by saying that 5G will not replace 4G technology and added that the FCC 5G order overrides local rules.

CM McCurn asked if this is more harmful than what is in place. Valicenti said she does not have enough knowledge to provide an opinion on that, but larger cities want faster connectivity and reliability. McCurn asked about the FCC regulation and asked how this will have an effect on Town Branch Commons. Valicenti said we met with Town Branch Commons with the understanding that this is the part we could control. She said it is the aesthetics part we changed in the ordinance. McCurn asked about existing cell towers and if they are active. Valicenti said she cannot say if they are all active or not. McCurn commented on the cell towers being above-ground and asked if any can be underground. Valicenti said small cells will not be underground. She said the reason they are above ground is because they are mounted on light poles and there is enough space to provide fiber if needed. McCurn asked if the city will pay to power these and Valicenti said no because the city does not own the poles.

CM Evans expressed concern about aesthetics. She commented on New Circle in her district which has several utility poles and streetlights which are great but are also frustrating. CM Evans asked how we can encourage telecom companies to work with the owners if the existing poles so we don't have additional poles going up in the city. Doug Burton, Urban County Engineer, said we can do that under the new FCC requirements. He said 17C gives the authority to require companies to use existing light poles or talk with KU to decommission the pole.

CM Plomin commented on the rural area and asked if density will override because of cost. Valicenti said in terms of 5G deployment, the intent of the companies is that potentially it could evolve to greater distances and more reliability, but right now that is not where they make their investment. Plomin asked if they have the potential to do that and Valicenti said they do because of the height and density. She added that there will have to be more poles to provide the reliability. Plomin commented on the FCC 5G rules overriding local rules and asked what local rules will be overridden by the FCC rule. Valicenti said before there was not a shot clock so when a company applied for a telecom franchise there was no time span unless they wanted it for a particular reason.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

IV. Items Referred to Committee

No comment or action was taken on this item.

A motion was made by CM Mossotti to adjourn, seconded by VM Kay. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

KT 10.7.2019