



Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

August 20, 2024

Summary and Motions

Chair Sheehan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Committee Members, Council Members Fogle, Lynch, LeGris, Gray, Worley, F. Brown, and Sevigny were present. Committee Members Vice Mayor Wu and Council Member Monarrez were absent. Council Member Reynolds was present as a non-voting member.

I. Approval of June 18, 2024 Committee Summary

Motion by Gray to approve the June 18, 2024 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Summary. Seconded by LeGris. Motion passed without dissent.

II. Annual Stormwater Priority List Update

Mark Sanders, Engineering Manager, presented the 2024 Stormwater Drainage and Flooding Update. He reviewed the severity score process and how a property gets considered for inclusion on the stormwater priority list. He showed the website where the updated priority list can be found as well as a map that shows where projects are located throughout the city. He highlighted some of the projects in the community as they appear on the priority list. He reviewed stormwater capital projects and provided details such as phase, location, and cost. Capital maintenance projects are smaller projects to mitigate flooding; repair and cleaning projects intended to restore infrastructure; or larger projects which require engineering design and are openly bid for construction. These projects would likely not meet the criteria for priority capital projects.

When asked for more details regarding the Barnard Drive project which has extreme flooding, Sanders stated they are close to being able to start the project. Regarding the Joyland neighborhood, Sanders hopes to advertise next month, but due to weather and time, it will likely be March or April before a contractor can start work. There was discussion about communication and neighborhood outreach. Sanders said from the inception of a project, they work with Council offices and before moving forward with a project, they meet with homeowners of the affected area. When they have buy-in, they look at budgeting and planning for the next step which would be the design phase. Once they reach the design phase, they have regular meetings to ensure everyone understands the plan. No action was taken on this item.

III. Update to Chapter 8 in the Code of Ordinances Related to Blasting

6th District Council Woman, Denise Gray, provided a presentation on proposed changes to Chapter 8 in the Code of Ordinances related to Blasting. Evan Thompson, Attorney in Department of Law, confirmed this update is just to provide notice to the public regarding blasting. He emphasized it is subject to approval by the state before this change goes into effect. When asked if it is the state or the city who is responsible for notifying, Gray explained no one has been designated, this is creating a process to notify our residents. The state is required to send notice within a half a mile of blasting to the city. This update creates an arm to ensure residents have transparency and are informed. Burton added once this is fully vetted by the state, Engineering will work with GIS to pull information from Accela into a GIS map so we can have dots on a map to show people where there is blasting. We are not sending out blast notices, the

contractor sends out that notice to a larger area and then notifies us. In Accela, we are looking to add something that allows them to input information saying they are going to blast on a certain day, between certain hours. The general idea is that we will use the existing infrastructure of Accela and GIS to create some sort of mapping. He compared this to the right of way map when there is digging in someone's yard. When asked about the quarry project on Leestown Road, Burton confirmed there is a standing blasting permit for this project because they blast at the same time every day. This would basically be a dot that says they are blasting all year so it would be different.

Motion by Gray to approve an ordinance creating Chapter 8A in the Code of Ordinances related to Blasting, as presented to the committee. Seconded by Lynch. Motion passed without dissent.

IV. Empower Lexington Plan

Jada Griggs, Sustainability Program Manager, began the presentation with a history of the Empower Lexington Plan. The Empower Lexington Plan 2023 updates were provided by Blaine Early with the Environmental Commission. Stakeholders reviewed information for the following sectors: Materials & resources, natural systems & ecology, transportation & land use, quality of life, water efficiency, energy & Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The plan includes an updated community-wide GHG emissions inventory and recommended strategies or projects per sector to help us meet our net zero goals by 2050. The community identified their top 3 which are highlighted in the Empower Lexington Plan in blue. Griggs discussed the next steps which include developing emissions reduction plan and setting GHG emissions reduction targets of 50% by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

When asked if we will have to take a first step to encourage cleaner electricity, Griggs said part of the process includes smart goals and prioritizing what we can do. We are working through the comprehensive plan which is the regional plan for the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). We will also have a climate view platform, and that platform will help us see what can be done. One of the things we do as a city is to try to lead by example. When asked if we have things in place on our building projects we are trying to lead with, like the new Government Center, Griggs confirmed she and her colleague, James Bush, Energy Manager, are at the forefront of that question. She said they have been discussing this internally and they have seats at the table to talk about energy efficiency, but there is work to do.

There was a suggestion for training to help people who do not know what to do to qualify for the solarize Lexington program. Some people don't have access to a computer or know how to navigate the website. Griggs said she is happy to participate in neighborhood meetings

Motion by Sheehan to Approve the proposed resolution approving "Empower Lexington: a plan for a resilient community," a community-wide sustainability plan designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use in Lexington-Fayette County, and further supporting community efforts in furtherance of its implementation, seconded by Gray. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by LeGris to suspend the rules and report out the *Empower Lexington Plan* at Work Session today, August 20, 2024. Seconded by Lynch. Motion passed without dissent.

V. Items Referred to Committee

Motion by Sevigny to remove from the list of committee referrals: Item #5 – Review of Urban Services Funds. Seconded by Gray. Motion passed without dissent.

The meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.