

**Planning and Public Works Committee Meeting
October 14, 2014
Summary and Motions**

Chair Bill Farmer Jr. called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Committee members Mossotti, Gorton, Ellinger, Kay, Ford, Beard, Clarke, and Henson were in attendance. Committee member Lawless was absent. CMs Myers and Stinnett were also in attendance.

1. September 9, 2014 Committee Summary

Motion by Vice Mayor Gorton, second CM Beard to approve the September 9, 2014 committee summary. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Items Referred

On a motion by Vice Mayor Gorton, second CM Ellinger “Review Street Tree and Tree Protection Ordinances” was removed from the referral list. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion of the “H-1 Notification Process” item, there was consensus to bring this item forward for consideration during the next committee meeting.

After discussion of the “Explore Providing Assistance to Low Income Homeowners with Code Compliance” item, there was consensus to bring this item forward for consideration during the next committee meeting.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Gorton, second CM Mossotti “Homeowner Association Rights and Responsibilities” was removed from the referral list. Motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by CM Beard, second Vice Mayor Gorton “Multi-Way Stop Glendover Road at Valley Road” was removed from the referral list. Motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Gorton, second CM Ellinger “Office Premise Signage” was removed from the referral list. Motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Gorton, second CM Mossotti “Streetlight Installation Plan” was removed from the referral list. Motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by CM Ford, second CM Mossotti “Initiate Zoning Text Amendments for Food Trucks in the P-1 and AU Zones” was removed from the referral list. Motion failed after discussion and committee consensus to move this item forward at the next committee meeting.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Gorton, second CM Clarke “Affordable Housing Issue” was removed from the referral list. Motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Gorton, second CM Clarke “University of Kentucky Master Plan” was removed from the referral list. Motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by CM Stinnett, second CM Beard “MAP Fund Usage Policies” was removed from the referral list. Motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by CM Clarke, second Vice Mayor Gorton “Landscape Examination Procedure” was removed from the referral list. Motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Gorton, second CM Mossotti “Oliver Lewis Way Update” was removed from the referral list. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Leaf Collection Update

Charlie Martin introduced the item, and provided brief background information. Rob Allen provided an overview of the vacuum leaf collection program, and explained that approximately 90,000 addresses in Fayette County receive service. He reviewed program guidelines and alternative leaf disposal options, and provided the 2014 collection schedule. Mr. Allen stated that an interactive map is available to provide citizens with access to timely information regarding leaf collection.

Chris Doerge reviewed the capabilities of the interactive map, which categorizes areas according to collection dates and progress.

CM Mossotti noted that addresses that do not receive leaf collection are not clearly shown on the interactive map, and asked for improvements to the map in that regard.

CM Henson stated that some streets receive both city and private trash pickup, and the map would need to be coded accordingly to show which addresses will receive leaf collection service. In response to a question from CM Henson, Mr. Allen stated that steps have been taken to ensure that gaps in service will not occur.

In response to a question from CM Henson, Charlie Martin stated that collection will occur from Thanksgiving until Christmas. Mr. Allen stated that the budget for leaf collection is approximately \$300,000.

In response to a question from CM Clarke, Mr. Allen stated that only one collection is conducted for each address, but alternatives are available for removal of leaves after collection dates. He stated that flexibility is built into the collection schedule to allow for later collection dates as necessary.

CM Stinnett asked for information regarding budget and utilization of yard waste coupons. Commissioner Holmes stated that he would provide that information to the committee via email. CM Stinnett stated the importance of mulching leaves and utilizing compost bins. Mr. Allen responded that certain areas of the city require collection to protect storm drains. Mr. Martin stated that Council has the discretion to make changes to the program, and that collection has been outsourced for 2014.

4. Snow Removal Plan

Chester Hicks presented the snow and ice control plan, and explained that the city is divided into nine areas for snow removal and routes. Snow removal is prioritized according to street classification and traffic volume. The LFUCG is responsible for snow removal for approximately 134 lane miles inside of New Circle Road. He reviewed existing resources for snow removal, and stated that there has been an increase in the cost of salt.

CM Stinnett asked for information regarding the process for road segments to be added to the list. Albert Miller responded that requests should be made through Lexcall, and stated that all requests receive a response.

In response to a question from CM Stinnett, Mr. Miller stated that the contract price for salt has increased. Commissioner Holmes stated that the LFUCG will have enough salt to respond to a typical winter, even considering the cost increase.

Vice Mayor Gorton asked for Delong Road to be added to the list of hills to be treated. Mr. Miller stated that Delong Road is typically pretreated before a storm.

CM Mossotti presented information regarding a potential shortage of salt supply. Mr. Miller stated that a contract is in place for up to 15,000 tons of salt. In response to a follow up question from CM Mossotti, Mr. Miller stated that treatment becomes less effective when temperatures drop to approximately 20 degrees. He stated that an additive is used below that temperature. Mr. Miller stated that the LFUCG utilizes contractors to assist with snow removal as necessary to increase response capacity. Commissioner Holmes stated the need to evaluate capacity, and provided details related to the cost of equipment and personnel.

In response to a question from CM Myers, Mr. Hicks explained how new streets are added to the list for snow removal. CM Myers stated that cul-de-sacs located at the terminus of hills should be added to the “areas likely to freeze” list to receive salt application. Mr. Miller stated that this request can be made through Lexcall or email.

5. Electrical Inspection Fees

Vice Mayor Gorton introduced the item, and stated that it has been five years since electrical inspection fees were last reviewed.

Commissioner Paulsen presented the electrical inspection process and current fees, and presented fee increases as proposed by the contractor. He stated that fees were increased in 1991, 2002, and 2009, and recommended that an annual or bi-annual report be implemented in the future to provide the committee with code changes and related information that affects the time and effort needed to complete inspections.

In response to a question from CM Kay, Commissioner Paulsen stated that the contractor is currently in the second year of the current contract. He further explained that there have been competing bidders in the past, and the contract is awarded through the Request for Proposal process.

CM Kay noted that the contractor is reporting a substantial profit after expenses, and asked for clarification regarding a theft item that was noted in the provided financials. Mr. Vicroy, the contractor's attorney, provided additional details regarding specific line items in the financials.

Vice Mayor Gorton stated that any increases in inspection fees will result in increased home prices. She asked if a financial pro forma had been completed to calculate projected financials resulting from the requested increases. Mr. Vicroy stated that a pro forma had not been completed.

Vice Mayor Gorton noted that insurance costs for the contractor have increased, and asked for clarification regarding reported salaries. Mr. Vicroy stated that the contractor provides bonuses in lieu of raises, and contract labor is also a variable cost. Vice Mayor Gorton asked how the proposed increases were determined if a pro forma had not been completed. Mr. Jones, the contractor, responded that the Consumer Price Index is used to determine increases, as well as regional comparisons.

CM Farmer asked if commercial inspections were considered as well in conducting the analysis of the proposed fee increase. Commissioner Paulsen stated that he had spoken with commercial builders, and they expressed concerns regarding the proposed increase.

CM Farmer explained to the applicant that a meeting of the committee would be scheduled in the near future to consider the information requested of the applicant.

CM Kay stated that he is not in favor of an increase, given the profitability of the current contract.

Mr. Vicroy explained pending business expenses that will affect the contractor's future profitability.

Vice Mayor Gorton asked for clarification regarding new requirements, and reiterated the need for a pro forma to properly review this item. Mr. Vicroy responded that there were 35 changes to the Electric Code that will result in significantly more time to conduct inspections.

CM Mossotti agreed that additional information is necessary for the committee to take action.

Commissioner Paulsen restated the recommendation for an annual or biannual report to the committee regarding inspection requirements as they relate to the contract.

6. Code Enforcement Nuisance Abatement Process

Jonathan Hollinger provided background information for this item, and stated that a fund of \$200 thousand is established annually for abatement. He presented proposed revisions to the uses of these funds, including allowing the Division of Planning to utilize the funds for abatement. Mr. Hollinger presented unenforceable nuisance criteria, and discussed the enforcement timeline and civil penalties associated with same.

In response to questions from CM Lawless, Mr. Hollinger provided examples of zoning nuisance abatement and zoning sight triangles outside of existing road rights-of-way. He discussed abatement issues related to gravel.

CM Kay stated that Code Enforcement abatement actions have recently improved, and asked how this item can move forward. Mr. Hollinger stated that legislation will be drafted through the Law Department to move this item forward.

CM Farmer stated that this item will remain in committee.

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM.