



Planning and Public Works Committee  
January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Summary and Motions

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Vice Mayor Linda Gorton called the meeting to order at 1:01pm. Council Members Chuck Ellinger, Steve Kay, Chris Ford, Diane Lawless, Julian Beard, Bill Farmer, Jr., Jennifer Mossotti, Harry Clarke, and Peggy Henson were in attendance.

**1. Election of Committee Chair**

Motion by Ellinger to nominate Farmer to serve as Committee Chair. Seconded by Beard. Motion passed without dissent.

Farmer accepted the nomination.

Motion by Ellinger to elect Farmer as Committee Chair. Seconded by Beard. Motion passed without dissent.

Farmer asked Mossotti to serve as Vice Chair and she accepted.

**2. November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Summary**

Motion by Ellinger to approve the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 summary. Seconded by Gorton. Motion passed without dissent.

**3. December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Summary**

Motion by Gorton to approve the December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 summary. Seconded by Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent.

**4. Exploring the Use of Alternative Fuel Resources for Fayette County – CNG Update**

Farmer reported to Committee members that the ZOTA for CNG fueling stations had been approved by the Planning Commission.

Jamshid Baradaran came to the podium to present. Baradaran told Committee members that General Services has been considering converting to CNG vehicles for three years. They have determined that it is a viable option that will save fuel costs and decrease repair and maintenance expenses. He said that they have determined that the solid waste heavy fleet is where they want to start. 79% of the entire fleet budget is fuel cost. In FY 2012, LFUCG spent over \$5.8MM for fuel alone. Baradaran said that CNG averages \$1-2 per gallon less than diesel/gasoline. It also produces 20-30% less greenhouse emissions. He went on to say that 98% of all natural gas is produced in North America. This reduces the reliance on what is happening outside of North America.

Baradaran referenced his Return on Investment graph and said the numbers are based on having 10 CNG compactors in use. The typical lifecycle of a compactor is 10 years. The savings illustrated was approximately \$800,000 to \$850,000. He went on to reference the O&M cost savings. He said those savings would be approximately \$100,000.

Baradaran said that they have looked at the conversion option but decided that it is not the best option. They want to purchase new CNG vehicles. He said another challenge will be fueling stations. They have looked at potential partnerships, entering into a contract for commercial fueling stations, or using a portable skid.

He said that there will be facility modifications needed and also said that he has had discussions with LexTran about a potential partnership.

Henson asked Baradaran about the mileage of CNG vehicles. He said that the current compactors cost about \$3.40 a gallon to fill and CNG would cost \$1.90 a gallon. CNG technology is 10% less fuel efficient but it still makes sense financially. Henson asked about converting existing vehicles. Baradaran said that by converting the vehicles they would lose 35-50% efficiency. Those vehicles could only be used approximately four more years.

Lawless asked if General Services was looking strictly at Waste Management. Baradaran said that next they will look at the fleet in the Division of Streets and Roads. Lawless also asked about vegetable oil. Baradaran said that he has looked into it and it is not a viable option for them. There are also issues with warranties for the vehicles that are currently under warranty.

Lawless mentioned fracking and the impact it has on the environment.

Kay asked about the normal life cycle for these vehicles and was told that there is typically a 10-year, 100,000 mile lifespan. Baradaran said that he has almost completed his in-house model that will include an analysis of age, mileage, and physical condition.

Kay asked if there is a market for old vehicles. Baradaran said that there is market for vehicles that are three to five years old and they will give LFUCG a credit for them. Baradaran said that they do use auctions to sell compactors. He did say, however, that this is hit or miss. The market is not stable but they will consider this option as well.

Mossotti asked about using electric vehicles. Baradaran said that CNG will be used for heavy fleet and went on to say that electric vehicles are usually used for lighter fleet. He said that they purchased one electric vehicle but wants a year to look at pros and cons before purchasing any others.

Clarke asked why they are not going to convert. He asked if there is funding available to purchase new CNG vehicles. Baradaran said they have funding to purchase five to six units.

Commissioner Sally Hamilton provided a brief update on the conversation with LexTran. She said that timing is important. She said a collaborative effort with LexTran is crucial. LexTran is interested in converting their entire fleet to CNG. They would issue an RFP for a fueling station. Hamilton said that LFUCG could get on their contract. LexTran is three to four years out. Hamilton said they issue is if LFUCG gets out ahead of LexTran, LFUCG will need to fuel the vehicles. LFUCG could enter into a short-term agreement with a temporary fueling station. They can issue an RFP for that type of contract.

Farmer said that he was encouraged to hear that there would be decreased maintenance costs. He asked Baradaran about a timeline. Baradaran said the lead time to order the vehicles is 10-12 months.

Henson asked if there is an interest in the private industry. Baradaran said that there is absolutely an interest in the private industry which could increase the demand for fueling stations.

Henson also asked if the mechanics are certified. Baradaran said that the mechanics will get training for no charge to the city when the vehicles are purchased. Henson also asked about safety. Baradaran said they are very safe. He said that they are less likely to explode.

## **5. Items Referred to Committee**

Gorton asked about the FCPS and salt item. Wente will work with FCPS and provide an update in February.

Ford suggested that the Oliver Lewis Project be referred to the Social Services and Community Development Committee because of the new housing and social service needs for that area. He specifically mentioned Davis Bottom.

Gorton suggested leaving the big public works project in Planning and Public Works and referring the social service issues of that project into the Social Services and Community Development Committee.

Motion by Ford to refer the social services aspects of the Newtown Pike Extension issue, particularly the Land Trust and the neighborhood redevelopment to the Social Services and Community Development Committee. Seconded by Gorton. Motion passed without dissent.

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

*Submitted by Jenifer Benningfield, Council Administrative Specialist*