



Charlotte City Council

Environment Committee

Meeting Summary for January 11, 2016

COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

- I. **Subject:** 2016 Meeting Schedule
Action: Unanimously approved 2016 meeting schedule.
- II. **Subject:** Environment Committee Overview
Action: None
- III. **Subject:** Introduction to Focus Area Plans
Action: None
- IV. **Subject:** Solid Waste Services Review
Action: None

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Present: John Autry, James Mitchell, Patsy Kinsey, Al Austin
Guests: Mayor Roberts and Gregg Phipps
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:05 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Agenda Package
2. Environment Committee Overview.ppt
3. FAP.doc
4. Solid Waste Services.ppt

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Chairman Autry called the meeting to order and asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. He then turned it over to Assistant City Manager Hyong Yi.

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I. 2016 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Yi stated that staff is asking the Committee to review the proposed schedule (copy attached) and adopt it if comfortable. This does not mean that meetings cannot be added or changed if needed throughout the year.

Council member Austin made a motion and was seconded by Council member Mitchell to approve the 2016 proposed meeting schedule. (*Motion passed unanimously*)

II. Environment Committee Overview

Mr. Yi moved onto the next item and began reviewing the Environment Committee Overview presentation (copy attached). He reviewed the topics that the Environment Committee covered in 2015, the current referrals and issues in the Committee now and a few items to be scheduled in the future. He also read through the accomplishments of the Committee and City related to the environment over the last year.

Q&A

Autry: Do we have any opportunities to do anything with smart poles?

Yi: Yes, and we have talked about it with Phil Reiger and we are exploring our options, in partnership with Envision Charlotte.

Autry: Can we get an update at some point on the pilot project on that?

Yi: Yes, we will do that.

Phipps: Are the cases regarding the dumping of illegal materials in the water closed?

Karen Weatherly: It's not closed per say, but there has been no new information. The big piece of that has been the clean-up and decontamination of the plant.

Austin: Who paid for the diesel spill recently?

Autry: My understanding was the tenant and the company that created the spill has assumed responsibility for paying for the clean-up.

III. Introduction to Focus Area Plans

Mr. Yi stated the next item on the agenda is the introduction to the Environment Focus Area Plan (copy attached). He pointed out that the key initiatives/indicators are separated into two groups – community and city organization. Mr. Yi quickly reviewed the second and third page that shows how we have done over the last 6 months of FY16.

Q&A

Austin: What is the happiness index?

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Yi: We are still working to determine that index, but we are looking at how to make people's lives better. We are trying to find a way to make people happier. It was adopted by Council last year, and the last 6 months we have been working to flesh that out.

Kinsey: Under the tree canopy coverage baseline, do we have some kind of way to work with homeowners or incent them to not cut down their trees or replant if they did? I know we can't enforce anything on their private property.

Gina Shell: We do not have a way to incentivize replanting in a private yard. Part of what we will talk about when we bring the Urban Forestry Management Plan to you for discussion is engaging the citizens again and teaching them how to take care of trees on their property. It's about education.

Phipps: Is there anything this Committee would like to bring to the Budget Committee since we are entering the budget cycle that will help you meet these goals in this plan?

Autry: I would offer up that Rob Phocas's group needs more employees. Darcy has left recently to pursue personal interests and he needs more help other than that one position that is now open. I'd really like that reviewed.

Kim Eagle: Our staff can play a direct role in that process and we can engage and help facilitate those discussions internally.

Autry: Great, thank you. I'd like to commend staff on their work on this document. This is the first year I've seen this documents with baselines and progress and I think it's great. Let's go to the next item.

IV. Solid Waste Services Overview

Mr. Yi introduced Solid Waste Services Director, Victoria Johnson, to discuss the Solid Waste Services Overview presentation (copy attached). Ms. Johnson reviewed and discussed the current services, service providers, the status of current service contracts, fees associated with solid waste for residential and small businesses, and the different citywide special services they provide.

Q&A

Autry: It would be helpful to have a one page paper to take to community and neighborhood meetings that discuss our new policy of not leaving plastic bags for residents effective March 1, 2016. I understand many residents use to request you not take their good yard-waste bags.

Johnson: Yes, we will do that. We have a letter that we are sending out. Drivers are writing down the address of the ones that request that service now so we can communication to them.

Autry: How many street-sweeping crews do we have?

Johnson: Nine.

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Autry: How many street-sweeping trucks?

Johnson: Eleven. We have two in back-up in case one goes down.

Eagle: We can bring back a cost of a street sweeping crew if it's the Committee's pleasure as a follow-up to this conversation.

Autry: So for 840,000 people, there are 18 people on litter mitigation in the right-of-way.

Yi: The street sweepers don't work the entire City.

Johnson: Correct. This is just for City streets, not state maintained streets. Some do go into the neighborhoods that have a lot of tree canopy.

Autry: November and December are the worst months.

Johnson: Yes, leaf season is the challenge.

Autry: In addition to street sweeping, I'd like to see cost analysis for an additional litter collection crew as well.

Eagle: We will do that.

Mitchell: Can you share the recommendations from the consultant report regarding multi-family?

Johnson: They recommended 4-units or less.

Mitchell: What would be the budget impact if we go to 4-units or less?

Johnson: It could be a \$3 million savings.

Eagle: We are working through those numbers now and will have that for the February meeting when this comes back.

Yi: We will send you a copy of the study in case you haven't seen it yet.

Johnson: In February we will talk about the study, where we are with cost impacts and how we will look at solid waste going forward.

Kinsey: We have a fine Solid Waste Department and Victoria does a great job. The guys are all friendly when I see them on the street.

Council member Autry thanked everyone for the information and adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Environment Committee

Monday, January 11, 2016; 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 280

Committee Members: John Autry, Chair
James Mitchell, Vice Chair
Claire Fallon
Patsy Kinsey
Al Austin

Staff Resource: Hyong Yi, City Manager's Office

AGENDA

I. Environment Committee Overview

Staff Resource: Hyong Yi, City Manager's Office

The Committee will receive an overview of the work done by the Committee in the prior year, the items currently before the Committee, and anticipated future work in the upcoming year.

Action: None, for information only.

II. Introduction to Focus Area Plans

Staff Resource: Hyong Yi, City Manager's Office

Staff will provide an overview of the current Environment Focus Area Plan reviewing the current vision, initiatives, baseline measures, and current performance.

Action: None, for information only.

III. Solid Waste Services Review

Staff Resource: Victoria Johnson, Solid Waste Services

Staff will provide an overview of current services and status of the Solid Waste Study.

Action: None, for information only.

IV. 2016 Meeting Schedule

Staff Resource: Hyong Yi

The Committee is asked to review and approve the attached proposed meeting schedule for 2016.

Action: Approve or amend schedule

Attachment: 2016 Proposed Meeting Schedule

Next Meeting: TBD

Distribution:	City Council	Ron Carlee, City Manager	Executive Team
	Bob Hagemann	Stephanie Kelly	Environmental Cabinet

2016 Proposed Meeting Schedule for City Council Environment Committee

1st Monday of each month from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Room 280

**unless otherwise noted*

February 1

***March 14**

(March 7 conflicts with NLC)

April 4

May 2

June 6

***September 12**

(Sept. 5 is a holiday)

October 3

November 7

December 5

Notes:

No July or August meetings due to Council's summer schedule



CHARLOTTE

BUDGET & EVALUATION

Environment Committee Overview

Environment Committee

January 11, 2016



Overview

- What the Committee covered in 2015
- What is before the Committee currently
- What is expected to come before Committee in 2016



2015 In Review

- Water Quality Testing
- Waste Water Plant Upgrades
- Sugar Creek Waste Water Plant Upgrades
- Biosolids Program Briefing
- Charlotte Water Major Capital Projects Update
- Water Meter Upgrades Briefing
- Drought Status
- Water Quality Testing Briefing
- Waster System Master Plan Briefing
- Steele Creek Wasterwater Life Station Project
- Clean Diesel for Construction
- Storm Water Updates
- Post Construction Controls Ordinance Mitigation Fee and Task Force Updates (several)
- Coal Ash Project
- Solid Waste Operations
- Sustainable Facilities Policy
- Mecklenburg Livable Communities Plan
- State Regulatory Reform



Current Referrals/Issues

- Focus Area Plan
- Solid Waste Services Delivery and Cost Recovery Model
- Post Construction Controls Ordinance Task Force Recommendation

- Urban Forestry Management Plan
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory
- Sustainable Facilities Policy



2016 Items to be Scheduled

- Focus Area Plan Updates
- Solid Waste Services Delivery Model
- Water Meter Upgrades/Duke Mesh Network
- Drought Management and Response
- Smart Cities Related Work



Accomplishments

- Developed and approved the **Catawba-Wateree River Basin Water Supply Master Plan**.
- Entered into an agreement with **Union County** for managing their Wastewater Plant operations.
- Engaged staff and a citizen task force to propose revisions to the City's **Post-Construction Controls Ordinance**.
- Managed water system to ensure water utility passed all required **water quality** tests to maintain compliance with federal and state water standards when low water levels and high summer temperatures caused changes in the chemistry of the water in Lake Norman.
- Responded proactively to a **diesel fuel spill** in Little Sugar Creek to minimize contamination and environmental impact.
- Adopted **funding policies** that provide for a more sustainable water utility.
- Adopted **revised stormwater utility policies** to address the "smaller project" backlog.



Environment

FY2016 Strategic Focus Area Plan

“Charlotte will become a global leader in environmental sustainability, preserving our natural resources while balancing growth with sound fiscal policy.”

The City of Charlotte recognizes that environmental stewardship is fundamentally important to quality of life and essential to maintaining a vibrant economy. Protecting our natural resources, promoting conservation, and improving the environment all enhance the City's mission to preserve its citizens' quality of life.

Charlotte will become a global leader in environmental sustainability by:

- Becoming a model environmental community in how it manages solid waste, energy, water and air;
- Leading by example by practicing environmental stewardship in City operations and facilities as directed through the Internal Environmental Operations Plan;
- Seeking and supporting collaborative and regional solutions to environmental problems;
- Applying technologies to develop “smart city” solutions to our environmental goals.

Specific initiatives to support these goals include:

FY2016 Initiatives	Key Indicators – Community
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop baseline towards 100% achievement of waste diversion from landfill
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop baseline towards achieving carbon neutral footprint for the community
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop baseline towards reducing potable water use per capita • Develop baseline towards making all Charlotte waterways swimmable and fishable
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop baseline towards achieving 50% tree canopy • Develop a baseline towards 100% of households located within a 5 minute walk of a transit option by 2050
Smart City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the Happiness Index for Charlotte

FY2016 Initiatives	Key Indicators – City Organization
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop baseline towards achievement of 100% waste diversion from the landfill
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop baseline towards achievement of carbon neutral footprint for City operations • Develop baseline toward 100% LEED certified or equivalent government facilities
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop baseline towards using water as efficiently as possible
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop baseline towards increasing alternative fuel and vehicle technology use
Smart City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop baseline towards creating an engaged and connected workforce



Environment

FY2016 Strategic Focus Area Plan

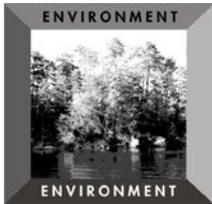
“Charlotte will become a global leader in environmental sustainability, preserving our natural resources while balancing growth with sound fiscal policy.”

Community Initiatives

FY2016 Initiative	Mid-Year Results as of November 30, 2015	Baseline Description	Established Baseline	FY2016 Outlook
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline towards 100% achievement of waste diversion from landfill 	1. Pounds of trash landfilled per residential curbside unit	1,863.8 lbs	✓
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline towards achieving carbon neutral footprint for the community 	1. Annual community greenhouse gas emissions	TBD	TBD
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline towards reducing potable water use per capita 	1. Hundred cubic feet per month of residential, single-family home consumption ¹	6.21 CCF/month	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline towards making all Charlotte waterways swimmable and fishable 	1. Percent impervious surface treated 2. Miles of stream improved 3. Miles of stream suitable for human contact 4. Yearly sanitary sewer overflows/hundred miles of pipe ²	9.58% 14.36 miles 71.1% 4.24 SSO	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline towards achieving 50% tree canopy 	1. Tree canopy coverage	46%	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a baseline towards 100% of households located within a 5 minute walk of a transit option by 2050 	1. Percentage of the population living within a ¼ mile (5-minute walk) to a transit option	31.5%	✓
Smart City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Happiness Index for Charlotte 	TBD	TBD	TBD

¹ This number represents residential water consumption for Charlotte Water’s entire operational footprint, not just the City of Charlotte.

² This number represents all (reportable and nonreportable) SSOs and accounts for any documented incident where untreated wastewater escaped our collection system. Reportable SSOs are defined by our permit as any SSO and/or spill over 1,000 gallons to the ground or any SSO and/or spill, regardless of volume, that reaches surface water.”



Environment

FY2016 Strategic Focus Area Plan

“Charlotte will become a global leader in environmental sustainability, preserving our natural resources while balancing growth with sound fiscal policy.”

City Organization Initiatives

FY2016 Initiative	Mid-Year Results as of November 30, 2015	Baseline Description	Established Baseline	FY2016 Outlook
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline towards achievement of 100% waste diversion from the landfill 		TBD	TBD
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline towards achievement of carbon neutral footprint for City operations 	1. Annual municipal greenhouse gas emissions	230,000 metric tons of CO ² e	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline toward 100% LEED certified or equivalent government facilities 	1. Quantity of LEED-certified or approved, third-party sustainably verified facilities 2. Total square footage of LEED-certified or approved, third party sustainably verified facilities	15 675,828	✓
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline towards using water as efficiently as possible 	1. Hundred cubic feet of water (CCF) consumed annually by City of Charlotte operations	373,703	✓
		2. Gallons/person/day of water consumed by City of Charlotte operations	107.6	✓
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline towards increasing alternative fuel and vehicle technology use 	1. Annual traditional fuel displaced through use of alternative fuel and vehicle technologies	144,494 gallons	✓
		2. Greenhouse gas emission equivalents	681.7 metric tons	✓
Smart City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline towards creating an engaged and connected workforce 	TBD	TBD	TBD



Solid Waste Services Overview

Environment Committee

January 11, 2016



Current Services

- **Resources**
 - \$52.4M Operating Budget; 302 Employees; 177 Heavy Trucks
- **Services Provided**
 - Single-Family and Multi-Family Residential Collection
 - Street Sweeping, Litter Picking, Special Events Support
 - Small Business Garbage and Dead Animal Collection
 - Maintain Central Business District and Tryon Street Mall
- **Contracts**
 - Single-Family Recycling Collection (\$6M)
 - Multi-Family Garbage, Recycling, Bulk Items, Christmas Trees (\$3.7M)
 - Rollout Carts – Purchase and Maintenance (\$1.6M)

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Mix of Service Providers

- **213,000+ curbside units**
 - Weekly curbside garbage, yard waste and bulky item collected by City employees
 - Bi-weekly single-stream recycling collected by Waste Management
 - Some multi-family units included
- **118,000+ multi-family units (781 complexes)**
 - Weekly dumpster/compactor collection, recycling, yard waste collected by Republic Services

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Current Service Contracts

Multi-family collections - Republic Services

- Weekly garbage - dumpster or compactor
- Recycling, bulk waste and Christmas trees
- Contract expires **December 31, 2016**
 - One optional six-month extension

Single-family recycling – Waste Management

- Contract expires **August 31, 2020**
 - two optional one-year extensions

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Solid Waste Fees

Solid Waste Fee (Residential Solid Waste Fee)

City levies the following amounts through County Tax Assessor:

Fee	FY2015	FY2016
Single Family	\$47/year	\$25/year
Multi Family	\$24/year	\$25/year

City bills directly:

Small Business \$250/year (new as of FY16)

Solid Waste Fees fund **17%** (\$9M) of total SWS budget
 General Fund provides **83%** (\$43.4) of total SWS budget
 SWS budget comprises ~**10%** of total General Fund budget

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Residential Collection

Curbside Service FY16 Budget: \$39.4M (includes disposal costs)	Units served weekly	# of daily routes
Garbage	213,876	60
Recycling	106,938	contracted
Yard Waste	213,876	34
Bulky (138,199 stops FY15)	213,876	11

Dumpster/Compactor Service FY16 Budget: \$6.4M (includes disposal costs)	Units served weekly	# of weekly crews
Garbage, recycling, bulky, annual Christmas tree collection	118,000+	contracted

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Citywide Services

Special Services FY16 Budget: \$6.4M (includes disposal costs)	# of daily crews	# of employees per crew
Street Sweeping	9	1
ROW Litter Collection	9	2
Business Garbage	3	2
Dead Animal Collection	1	1
Barricade Delivery & Collection	1	2
Special Cleanup	2	2

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- ### County-designated disposal facilities
- BFI Speedway Landfill (garbage & bulky)
 - Owned by Republic Services

 - Materials Recovery Facility (recycling)
 - Owned by Mecklenburg County
 - Operated by ReCommunity

 - Compost Central (yard waste)
 - Owned and operated by Mecklenburg County

 - Metals and Tires Recycling (white goods & tires)
 - Owned and operated by Mecklenburg County
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What Keeps the SWS Director Up at Night

- Lack of an integrated waste system
 - City: collection, County: disposal
- Concern about traveling the Road to Zero Landfill?
- Apartment buildings
 - Anticipated increase of 13,000+ units in FY17
 - Recommendation from 2013 consultant study
- Solid Waste Study
 - Environment Committee in February
 - Budget Committee after Environment Committee

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