

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

Standing Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Spencer Thibodeau (D2), Chair
Councilor Belinda Ray (D1)
Councilor Jill Duson (A/L)

Minutes May 17, 2017

Members Present: Councilor Thibodeau, Councilor Ray, Councilor Duson
Staff Present: Troy Moon, Chris Branch, Melissa Graffam, Mike Murray, Jon Jennings

Councilor Duson makes a motion to approve the minutes from April 25, 2017 meeting. Seconded by Councilor Ray. All in favor (2-0, Councilor Thibodeau had not yet arrived).

Sustainability Updates

Bayside Adapts – There were five (5) submissions. The presentation was held on May 3, 2017. The winner was Aceto Landscape Architects.

Casco Bay Heat Pump Challenge – Will be held on June 17, 2017; Public to learn about heat pumps. Collaboration between the City of Portland, South Portland, Falmouth, Scarborough, GPCOG, and Efficiency ME. The goal is to sell 1,000 heat pumps.

Update on Project to Convert Streetlights to LED - The City is working with TEN Connected Solutions. In negotiations with CMP to purchase 6800 lights and switch them over to LED.

Presentation Regarding Improvements to the Solid Waste Program

Jon Jennings presented the outcome of the study in regards to improvements/changes to the Solid Waste program. There were two companies that the city looked at when making comparisons to what they can do vs what we do. In the end, it was decided to stay with the city maintaining the Solid Waste (SW) program. There was no savings from privatizing the service and the cities SW division not only picks up trash and recycling; but is an important part of the cities winter operations. The City Manager also said that with moving on with the city operations, it will focus on modernization and efficiency. With that, he will need council support on the capital side for keeping modernized vehicles/packers.

Troy Moon said that the new recycling carts will be distributed in August with the program starting in September. Hoping with the carts there will be a more significant increase in recycling. There will also be less blowing of recycling items; such as now with the current bins.

The City received a grant from The Recycling Partnership. The financial support was \$7 per cart (\$175,000). They also will be helping with technical assistance and an educational campaign. We also received \$35,000 for public space recycling bins.

Councilor Duson said that she was pleasantly surprised to see that its less expensive for the city to do the collection. She was one who had asked for the City Manager to look into this.

Councilor Ray asked if the numbers included winter operations. Troy Moon responded that it did not.

Chris Branch said that some of the trucks only have one tipper and will be putting two on those. Also want to look at the semi-automatic side loader and split body trash packers.

Councilor Ray asked if we are looking at carts for trash in the future. Chris Branch responded that we are.

Discuss Strategies for Achieving 100% Clean Energy Goal

Charlie Agnew and Simon Pritchard from Competitive Energy Services discussed the options available to achieve 100% renewable energy.

To cover all municipal operations (schools, jetport, city buildings), the city would need 35 million kWh electricity per year. To do this, it would need 120 acres of spaces, 30 MW and \$52-100 million in construction costs. In perspective, the new Ocean Avenue Landfill Solar PV is 660 kW (0.66MW); 1.1 million kWh/year and is 3% of the total municipal operations.

There are four renewable options. Solar (Power Purchase Agreement), Direct Ownership, Renewable Energy Credits, and Contract for Differences.

Motion was made by Councilor Ray to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 pm. Motion was seconded by Councilor Thibodeau. All in favor. 2-0. (Councilor Duson had left earlier)