

**MINUTES OF THE
GREENSBORO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 24, 2020**

Members Present

Kay Brandon, Chair
Brenton Boyce
Tony Davies
Bob Davis
Mary Louise Smith
Nelson Stover
Godfrey Uzochukwu

Members Absent

Carlos Townsend

Staff Present

Chris Marriott

The Solid Waste Management Commission met virtually on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Carlos Townsend was absent. City Council liaisons Mary Kay Abuzuaiter and Goldie Wells were in attendance.

Approval of minutes of September 22, 2020 meeting

The September minutes were approved. Brenton Boyce and Tony Davies abstained because they didn't attend the September meeting.

Old Business

a. Staff Updates

Chris Marriott stated that the **Solid Waste Collections division reorganization** is underway and staff is excited to see that efficiencies are already taking place. Once a few more positions are filled, which should take place in the next few months, the reorganization will be complete.

Chris said that the **Solar Energy project** and the **Landfill Gas to Energy project** at the White Street Landfill are both in operation. He said the City is still waiting for the State to approve the **landfill permit renewal** to ensure it can continue to accept Osborne Wastewater Treatment Plant remnants, and function as an emergency backup location for municipal solid waste if needed.

City Council has extended the contract with Waste Management for solid waste disposal at the Uhwharrie Landfill through December 31, 2021. Dale Wyrick and Chris will

provide a Solid Waste Update at City Council's Work Session on Tuesday, December 1 at 3 pm to discuss the next steps in this process, as well as the Cart Rollback Fee. All Solid Waste Management Commission members are invited to access the meeting through Zoom.

New Business

a. Styrofoam Densifier

Nelson Stover stated that Styrofoam recycling officially began on November 12 in Greensboro at the Tiny House Community Training and Recycling Center facility located at 1310 West Gate City Boulevard. The \$44,000 project is funded by a grant from Greensboro Beautiful, Inc. and the Food Service Industry, along with donations from individual donors. Nelson invited members to contact him for a tour to observe the foam densifier in operation.

Tony Davies asked about publicity for the effort. Nelson noted that publicity can begin and a news release, video and social media efforts will be distributed by the city in the near future. He especially wanted to thank Tori Carle for her assistance in editing and scriptwriting.

Council person Abuzuaiter stated that local groups are thrilled to have this facility in Greensboro.

Comments from Commissioners, Staff, Council Representatives

Council person Wells stated that she is happy to hear of the foam recycling facility.

Uzo asked about the Solid Waste Management Commission's 2021 agenda. Chris stated that the Commission members can continue to focus on long-term fiscally sustainable solid waste management and recycling solutions, and improving per capita waste reduction through recycling or diversion. Nelson Stover stated that he would like to research an energy efficient city operations fleet, with a focus on electric vehicles. Council person Abuzuaiter noted that the Community Sustainability Council is also researching this idea. Chris noted he was part of a city group that submitted a grant for City LEED certification. While Greensboro earned the silver level award, both composting and food waste processing were found to be problematic. He suggested that a comprehensive food waste plan might be something the Commission could research.

Bob Davis noted that the city now has its 11th glass recycling drop-off location. Chris stated that glass collection for Fiscal Year July 2019 – June 2020 increased by 600 tons over the previous fiscal year.

Bob Davis expressed concerns about the number of trash and recycling cans still at the curb days after collection has taken place. Chris stated that he and Dale will present a plan to address this issue at the December 1 City Council Work Session.

Kay Brandon mentioned the Love Your Block initiative that provides services to revitalize neighborhoods. She suggested that Field Operations distribute solid waste and recycling information when they provide special service for excess yard waste, C&D and Household Hazardous Waste, as part of this initiative.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled Commission meeting is Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 3 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,
Kay Brandon, Chair