

**MINUTES OF THE
GREENSBORO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MARCH 26, 2014**

Members Present

Mark Taylor, Chair
Kay Brandon
Bob Davis
Bob Mays
Tom Phillips
Godfrey Uzochukwu
Tony Davies

Staff Present

Dale Wyrick
Nancy Lindemeyer
Chris Marriott
Alex Arnett

Mary McClellan (ReCommunity)

The Solid Waste Management Commission met on Wednesday, March 26th, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the Solid Waste Management Commission Conference Room.

Chair Mark Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting. One guest was in attendance, Stan Joseph with Waste Management of the Carolinas.

Approval of minutes of February 26, 2014 meeting

Chair Taylor stated that the January and February minutes were approved by acclamation after verifying that the noted changes had been made.

Chair Taylor read a letter of resignation from Vice Chairman Vic Nussbaum, who stated that due to personal and business reasons, he was unable to provide as much time as he would like to the Commission. Mr. Davies suggested that the Commission write a letter thanking him for his service and wishing him well.

Chair Taylor asked that staff contact the clerk's office to have a new member appointed to the commission. Dale Wyrick said that he would take care of that.

After a short discussion Kay Brandon was nominated to serve as Vice Chair. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Old Business

a. White Street Landfill LFG Contract Update

Dale Wyrick stated that at the February Council work session, Council asked about financing options for the LFG contract. Council directed staff to utilize a hybrid of the Developer Financed Option and City Financed Option, which gives Council the ability to purchase the facility at or about year six of the 15 year contract at a substantially reduced rate. From that point forward, they would be in control of all the gas. Council also requested that Cone be part of any discussion.

Chair Taylor asked if that compromise was negotiated with the vendor. Dale Wyrick stated that this was Council's direction and that Petra, the recommended vendor, is acting on good faith because they have not officially been selected yet, although Council is willing to move forward with Petra.

Kay Brandon asked what the discussion would be with Cone. Dale Wyrick stated that the way he interpreted it, Cone is involved to ensure they are kept whole through this process. With a few efficiency studies that will be done over the next few years, the conflict may never arise over the 15-year period. Council still needs to authorize the Manager to go into contract negotiations with Petra at some point and Cone will probably be a part of those negotiations. There was a meeting with Cone last week, which was the first of many meetings to talk through what continues to be an evolving project.

Bob Mays pointed out that a lot of Cone's technology is antiquated and there is newer technology now. That is probably why Petra feels they can accommodate the needs specified by Council.

Other Old Business

Dr. Uzo asked if Councilman Fox's request has been addressed appropriately. Chair Taylor responded that Mr. Fox requested, individually, from Commission members a response and he is unaware of what individual Commission member did with that request. Bob Davis stated that he felt the Commission members should not respond individually, but as a whole commission. Chair Taylor stated that he immediately offered to have a meeting with Councilman Fox, Bob Davis and himself, which was rejected.

Councilman Fox stated he would like to get feedback first, and perhaps meet later. There seemed to be a loose consensus that most Commission members did not feel comfortable being singled out to be polled, but wanted to be represented by the group, as offered. Chair Taylor stated that he would again offer to meet with Mr. Davis and Councilman Fox and see if he would be willing.

Kay Brandon stated that Councilman Fox contacted her and she feels that his concern was getting better clarification about the role of the Commission. He also seemed to be concerned about staff time and resources that are spent for each of the Commission's meetings. She responded to him that only Dale Wyrick could answer those questions and concerns. Dale Wyrick stated that Councilman Fox has raised these concerns with him also, and he responded that there certainly is staff time involved, but this is a Council directive and the commission takes direction from the Council.

Bob Mays stated that he had concerns that the Council representative for the District that holds the White Street landfill may not be as involved as he should be. The subcommittee needs feedback from the community and to give an opportunity to give information about the various types of technology and development on that property. It would be very valuable to have Councilman Fox attend these Commission meetings and to come to the subcommittee meetings. Kay Brandon stated that Councilman Fox has another meeting just before the scheduled time of this Commission meeting which may make it difficult for him to attend both meetings. Dale Wyrick pointed out that this is the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and both Mr. Fox and Mrs. Abuzuaiter are involved in that meeting. Kay Brandon stated that Ray Trapp also has a meeting that conflicts with this Commission meeting. Bob Mays stated that can be addressed by this Commission and/or by the Mayor.

Kay Brandon suggested the possibility of changing the meeting time of this Commission from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. to allow these City leaders to attend these meetings.

New Business

a. Work Group Reports

Chair Taylor presented a revised list of the work groups and stated that he added the staff members for each group.

Bob Mays asked that Tony Davies be added to his group. A meeting will be set up later today.

Mary McClellan and Alex Arnett arrived at 3:40 p.m.

Chair Taylor stated that his group met on Monday to discuss waste conversion. He pointed out that meeting information would be passed along to all Commission members for their information in case they wished to attend. Members need to be aware of the Public Meetings law. In the meeting held Monday they met with Mimeos, who made a presentation to suggest a technological substitution for landfilling, which is a waste conversion process and does not produce energy but produces a gas (syngas), which can be burned to generate electricity or burned in a boiler or some other use. If the subcommittee feels this is something viable, they will be invited to a future meeting to make a presentation and the Commission can decide whether to recommend it to City Council or not.

Bob Mays stated that it is important point out how far this commission and the previous test force has, over the past four years to be able to have successful subcommittee meetings that provides much-needed information that also offers a time savings to the Commission meetings.

Tom Phillips stated that there has been no meeting of this subcommittee yet. He received a draft of the regional report from Dale and possibly within the next month they would be able to get together during the third week of April.

Bob Davis stated that he would be willing to be a temporary Chair for Vic's work group. Tony Davies stated that he would appreciate that. Kay Brandon would also be on the B.3 work group.

b. NC SWANA 2014 Conference, April 7-10, Raleigh, NC

Chair Taylor stated that the NC SWANA Conference will be held in Raleigh, April 7 - 10. Sign-up sheets are available for those wishing to attend. This conference will be a good use of the funding designated for the Commission. Attendees would give a report to the Commission at the next meeting.

Dale Wyrick asked that all members interested in attending to let him know as soon as possible.

c. Other New Business

There were no matters to be discussed.

Comments from Commissioners, Staff, Council Representatives

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mark Taylor, Chair

MT/jd-gm