

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 05-18-22 MEETING

## MINUTES (APPROVED 08-17-22)

### PAGE 1 OF 4

Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2022

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Conference Room on 10<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall, 161 W Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan

**I. Call to Order** *Chairperson Kazmier called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.*

#### **II. Roll Call**

**Present:** *Commissioner Kevin Lund, Commissioner Kelsey Heck Wood (Vice Chairperson), Commissioner Bethany Hersha, Commissioner Kelli Kazmier (Chairperson).*

**Absent:** *Commissioner Will Forgrave (Sixth Ward Councilmember), Commissioner Jacob Inosencio.*

**Staff:** *Troy R White, City of Jackson Engineering.*

**Also Present:** *None.*

#### **III. Adoption of the Agenda**

*Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and seconded by Commissioner Lund to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion approved unanimously.*

#### **IV. Approval of 02-16-22, 03-16-22 and 04-20-22 Meeting Minutes**

*Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and seconded by Commissioner Hersha to approve the minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.*

#### **V. New Business – Farmer’s Market Outreach Opportunities**

*Commissioner Kazmier turned the floor over to Commissioner Hersha. Commissioner Hersha explained that Farmers’ Market may provide an opportunity for exposure as it is likely to be attended by environmentally conscious people. There may be attendees that may have interest in serving on the Environmental Commission.*

*Commissioner Kazmier stated that the Farmers’ Market will open in June and that it would be an opportunity for outreach.*

*Mr. White will inquire of the DDA what the requirements would be for the Environmental Commission to have a presence at the Farmers’ Market.*

## **VI. No Mow May**

*Commissioner Kazmier suggested that the Environmental Commission could support “No Mow May” and encourage a relaxation of mowing requirements to protect pollinators. She explained that “No Mow May” is a movement to provide temporary habitat for pollinators as they emerge in the spring before other habitats, such as flowers and forested areas, become established.*

*Commissioner Kazmier will draft an agenda item in the fall for consideration by City Council so that Jackson may be able to participate in 2023. Working on this issue in the fall will provide time for outreach.*

*Commissioner Kazmier requested that Mr. White provide her with the current weed ordinance. Mr. White agreed.*

*Commissioner Kazmier explained that the purpose of the discussion was to introduce the topic and the gauge support amongst the commissioners. All commissioners present voice support.*

## **VII. 2022 Action Items**

### **a) Refuse and Recycling Committee Report and Discussion**

- i) Map of private property cleanups from data compiled by Commissioner Lund – no discussion*
- ii) Single hauler info compiled by Commissioner Forgrave – no discussion*
- iii) Record documents regarding past refuse and recycling collection actions compiled by Commissioner Forgrave – no discussion*

*Commissioner Kazmier turned the floor over to Commissioner Heck Wood.*

*Commissioner Heck Wood made a presentation titled “Garbage Dumping in Jackson” with eight slides (attached) that summarizes costs and actions taken by the City to address dumped or piled refuse in the calendar year 2019.*

*Commissioner Hersha suggested that the info is good and may be helpful to City Council if they were to receive it.*

*Commissioner Lund suggested that the info could be used to building a hauler contract.*

*Commissioner Kazmier suggested that the compiled data shows that a problem does exist. She also suggested that more data would be helpful to determine if there is a trend. It was requested that Mr. White obtain more data for the 2018 calendar year and a year spanning 2021 and 2022. Mr. White agreed.*

*Mr. White suggested that the data presented could be used to raise awareness of the problem.*

*Commissioner Kazmier questioned whether people in our community are aware of how much more we pay for refuse service in Jackson than in other communities – that we have the highest prices with the lowest levels of service.*

*Commissioner Lund stated that it is difficult to compare costs across communities due to varying levels of service.*

*Commissioner Kazmier replied that the data sorted out to compare only communities with comparable levels of service.*

*Commissioner Lund suggested that info be included in the presentation.*

*Commissioner Kazmier replied that this is the question on the table.*

*Commissioner Hersha stated that the presentation in its current form is simple and digestible and that adding costs would raise questions.*

*Commissioner Kazmier related that it does not appear that we are currently in time of transformational change and that providing no-frills pickup at a cheaper price may be easiest program to sell and to get service for those who have had a hard time affording it.*

*After discussion, Commissioner Kazmier summarized a path forward as:*

- 1) Gather info for years outside of 2022 and include it in the presentation materials.*
- 2) Schedule a meeting with the City Manager to make the presentation, reiterate that reducing costs is the best way to get service to those who currently do not have service and discuss options for getting a no-frills pickup contract into place. A determination needs to be made if a program in neighborhood of \$20 per month per household is a possibility.*
- 3) Put a proposal forward in late-summer or early-fall.*

*All commissioners in attendance voice concurrence. Commissioner closed discussed.*

**b) Sustainable Procurement Committee Report and Discussion**

*No report or discussion*

**c) Urban Forestry Committee Report and Discussion**

*No report or discussion*

**VIII. Citizen Comments**

*Written correspondence from Dan Graves and the League of Women Voters Jackson area was received.*

**IX. Commissioner Comments**

**PFA's**

*Commissioner Kazmier discussed a report that shows that some store-bought bagged soil with fertilizer contains biosolids that are a byproduct of wastewater treatment and that it may be appropriate to restrict the sale of such products in the City to reduce exposure to and the spread of PFA's. Although it is a large problem, actions at a low level could help relieve the problem.*

*The ultimate destination of sludge from the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant was questioned. Mr. White will inquire of the plant manager.*

*Commissioner Kazmier suggested that the use of soils containing biosolids be restricted in the City. Commissioner Lunds suggested that the same be true of phosphorus.*

*Commissioner Kazmier questioned what and where the City applies fertilizers. Mr. White will inquire of the Director of Parks and Recreation.*

#### Meeting Schedule

*Commissioner Kazmier made a motion that the July 2022 meeting be cancelled due to conflicts with commissioners' schedules. Commissioner Heck Wood seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

#### Expiration of Commissioner Hersha's Term on 05-29-22

*Commissioner Kazmier thanked Commissioner Hersha for her service to the Commission and to the City.*

#### Summary of inquiries and information requests

*A summary of inquiries and information requests Mr. White will make of city staff is as follows:*

- 1) What is required for the Environmental Commission to have a presence at the Farmers' Market?*
- 2) Provide the current weed ordinance.*
- 3) How many garbage citations were issued by Community Development in 2018 calendar year and in the year from May 2021 through April 2022?*
- 4) How many and what was the cost for private property cleanups in 2018 calendar year and in the year from May 2021 through April 2022?*
- 5) How many and what was the cost for right-of-way garbage clean ups were done on Major Streets and Local Streets in 2018 calendar year and from May 2021 through April 2022?*
- 6) What is the Wastewater Treatment Plant's sludge disposal method and what is the final destination of the disposed sludge.*
- 7) Have PFAs been found in the plant's effluent or sludge?*
- 8) Does the City apply fertilizers? If so, where and what kind?*

**X. Next meeting – Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm.**

#### **XVI. Adjournment**

*Motion by Commissioner Kelsey Heck and supported by Commissioner Kazmier to adjourn approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:26 pm.*