



CITY OF CHARLESTON WEST VIRGINIA



COUNCIL MEMBER – AT-LARGE

Caitlin Cook
1534 Summit Drive
Charleston, WV 25302 Telephone:
304-543-879
caitlin.cook@cityofcharleston.org

Environment and Recycling Committee, Chair
Public Safety Committee

TO: Environment and Recycling Committee
FROM: Caitlin Cook, Chair
RE: Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Council Committee on Environment and Recycling will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. The meeting will begin promptly at 5:30 PM
In the **AV Room #308** in City Hall, 501 Virginia St. E. Charleston, WV 25301.

Agenda

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. 4-14-2022

DISCUSSION

1. Gorilla Recycling Presentation

CC/jb

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT & RECYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 14, 2022 – 5:30 PM- VIA REMOTE

Committee Members Present: Caitlin Cook, Chair - Bruce King -Bobby Brown
Emmett Pepper

Others Present: Mayor Goodwin- Linda Frame/James Young/Rod Watkins w/The Green Team
Brent Webster –

The Chairman entertained a motion to approve the previous minutes. Bruce King made the motion. Bobby Brown seconded. Previous minutes approved as written.

First Agenda Item: Bin Discussion- The Chairman yielded the floor to Mayor Goodwin. The Mayor began by telling the Committee that when the decision was made to take away the plastic bags, was not a popular one, but after research found that it was not appropriate to recycle things in a bag that was not recyclable. She also said that spending \$400,000 per year to an out of state firm to provide non-recyclable bags was not a good use of money, which was confirmed by the Study that was conducted last year. She went on to say that due in part to the work and leadership of the late Councilman John Kennedy Bailey, a program was put into place whereby citizens could use their existing bins worked well but felt there needed to be more streamlined and develop more consistency regarding the type of bin. She added that they wanted to use it as an opportunity for a pilot program for these bins in recycling and refuse. She stated that they have ordered 5,000 bins which will be distributed in the near future. She said that due to the diligence and hard work of the refuse and recycling team they have gathered information on who is currently recycling, which is approximately 3,600ish. She added that they over- ordered intentionally to have a surplus in hopes of creating and increasing the number of households who recycle and if needed, will ask Council to order more. She stated that it may also be a great opportunity to provide some type of tangible item such as a laminated card or magnet in addition to the QR code on the bin which could provide additional information about the recycling program. She stated that she is interested and is looking forward to hearing this committee's feedback as to the best way to move forward.

Chairman Cook stated that with the QR code could also provide any possible amendments to the current ordinance is necessary as well as any updates to and about the program by just scanning it with a phone. She added that she also agrees receiving something tangible is important and that providing both would be ideal but is open to whatever the committee decides is best. The Chairman opened the floor for committee comments. Emmett Pepper stated that he agreed with using both. Bobby Brown mentioned that he believed that over time the stickers on the bins will need replacing and that something tangible should be given at the time the bins are distributed. Brent Webster stated that he hopes the bins would be available for distribution either the 2nd or 3rd week in May but with supply issues could not say definitely He went on to say that once received it would take multiple weeks to get them distributed. Chairman Cook asked if there

would be a letter sent before the bins are distributed. Brent Webster responded that it would be a real challenge because the only way currently to track who is recycling is provided by the crew who does it and there are no names attached to the address. He stated that he would be open to any suggestions from this committee and/or the administration. Chairman Cook also asked if a particular household needed an extra bin, are there options to attain one. Brent Webster said that it would mostly depend on what this committee and/or administration and surplus bins that may exist.

The next item of discussion was the Gorilla Recycling facility discussion. Chairman Cook stated that she hopes to have someone from Gorilla to speak at the next E&R meeting. She went on to say that he hopes every member of the committee take a deep dive into the proposal and have a set of questions or concerns to try to make sure we utilize the opportunity to get the most useful information from them. James Young with the Green Team began by saying that representative of Gorilla Recycling reached out regarding the concept of bringing a recycling facility to Charleston. He stated that they have had communication back and forth with them and felt that as a volunteer committee they had done all they could and decided that bringing it this committee as well as the administration was the next step. Chairman Cook asked if anyone could share some of the questions and feedback they had received. Linda Frame remarked that Gorilla Recycling expressed that they wanted to take the lead on education and would want to cast a wide net into other communities in order to make sure they got enough material, and they would bring in their own staff. Rod Watkins stated that 95% of the risk lies with Gorilla other than having available property or the opportunity to purchase property. Emmett Pepper agreed that if things stay the same and no surprises, other than the land issue, that it appears that most of the risk lies with Gorilla and is cautiously optimistic about the proposal. The Chairman stated that when it comes down to finite details that the city has huge resources in City Mgr. Jonathan Storage and City Attorney Kevin Baker and she plans to invite Mr., Storage to the next meeting to give him the opportunity to hear and engage with the folks with Gorilla Recycling.

The Last Agenda Item is Benchmarking Update. The Chairman stated that the City Mgr. has been working with various organizations essentially getting the data needed for the benchmarking and it is getting recorded. She added that all the pieces needed to do the benchmarking is now in place. She also stated that hopefully by July 1, the City Mgr. will have A full report.

The Chairman asked if there were any further comments, questions or concerns. There being none, the Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn. Bruce King made the motion. Bobby Brown seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

The next E&R Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 5:30 PM

