

MAJORITY OFFICE/MICROSOFT "TEAMS"

FEES COMMITTEE

June 14, 2022

PRESENT Harry Amadasun, Chair, Councillors Awet Tsegai and Travis Simpson

ALSO Marilynn Cruz-Aponte, Assistant Public Works Director
PRESENT Town Council Chair Rich Kehoe (arrived 6:42 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Amadasun called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 1, 2022

MOTION By Travis Simpson
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **approve** the minutes of the June 1, 2022 meeting.

Motion carried 3/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

OLD BUSINESS

Waste Services Transfer Station Fees and Procedures

Marilyn Cruz- Aponte reviewed with the Committee the new recommended fees structure for Transfer Station Permits for residents and in-town properties. At the previous meeting on June 1 of the committee, adjustments were proposed to simplify the pricing structure.

For residents who bring single light items for disposal (i.e. a lawn chair, the transfer station will provide pass through service at no cost. Recyclable items are also exempt from cost and residents are encouraged to bring those items for processing. If a load brought to the station is of mixed variety of recyclables and trash items, that load will be charged the fees as described.

The fees as proposed by the director were then listed out as follows:

- (1) Small vehicle loads (cars, SUV's, and passenger vans) will remain at \$10 per load.
- (2) Pickup trucks (up to side-rail) will remain at \$20 per load. Senior pricing for these loads will be provided at a 50% discount of the regular fees.

(3) Pickups with loads above side-rails, cargo vans and single axle trailers will be \$40 per load. (4) Pickups with a single axle trailer in tow or an enclosed trailer (maximum length 12') will be charged \$60. (5) Pickups with an enclosed trailer in tow will be charged \$80, and (6) Box trucks (maximum length 15') will be charged \$100.

The Committee confirmed that the fees for disposal are not intended cover the operating costs of the facility. The fees structure put in place is based on assumed volume vs. weight for simplicity of operation. The Committee asked for more clarity on senior discount pricing on the document to assure ease of clarity to the public. Accommodations for residents with disabilities or limited mobility were evaluated and will be taken under consideration by Public Works. Additional signage and other options to help provide information to residents were discussed.

Council Chair Kehoe indicated that he understood the recommendation of the volume-based fee proposal but proposed that the pricing was too high and the structure be focused on affordability. Modest pricing would incentivize proper disposal and encourage townspeople to improve their residences or places of business and yard maintenance practices.

The Committee concurred that new pricing should not deviate greatly from current pricing, which Director Cruz-Aponte confirmed have not changed in nearly a decade. The Commission proposed to further simplify and regroup vehicle types into a single category of "average resident vehicle types" – (passenger vehicle, mini-van, small SUV, pickup truck or small trailer) priced at \$10 per visit with a 50% discount for in-town seniors 65+. This category of vehicle type would align with current practices and only raises the fees minimally.

The Committee further proposed that a more clear line of demarcation was necessary in pricing for users of the transfer station who are delivering large quantities in large vehicles and trailers. The pricing for the large quantity vehicles remained the same as proposed by the director, ranging from \$40-\$100 (*items 3-6 as described above*).

In addition, the Committee recommended an assignment of a \$10 value to annual Bulky Permit Tickets sold between July 1, 2022 and September 30, 2022 for use as payment from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 when these tickets expire and an assignment of a \$10 value to non-expiring tickets being sold between July 1, 2022 and September 30, 2022 for use as payment in perpetuity.

The Committee requested that Public Works provide a final draft reflecting these changes to be considered at a future meeting with the goal of making all changes effective as of October 1, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
 seconded by Travis Simpson
 to **adjourn** (7:50)
 Motion carried 3/0.

cc: Town Council
Mayor Walsh
Melissa McCaw, Finance Director
Marilynn Cruz-Aponte, Director of Public Works