

City Council



1049 State Avenue
Marysville, WA 98270

**Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 11, 2022**

Call to Order / Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nehring called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Matt Zelig gave the invocation. Mayor Nehring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present:

Mayor: Jon Nehring

Council: Councilmember Jeff Vaughan, Councilmember Tom King, Councilmember Mark James, Councilmember Kelly Richards, Councilmember Michael Stevens, Councilmember Steve Muller

Absent: Council President Kamille Norton

Staff: Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Gloria Hirashima, Finance Director Sandy Langdon, Public Works Director Jeff Laycock, Information Systems Analyst Mike Davis, City Attorney Jon Walker, Parks & Recreation Director Tara Mizell, Fire Chief Martin McFalls, Information Services Director Worth Norton, Communications Manager Connie Mennie, Community Development Director Haylie Miller, Asst. Public Works Director Max Phan

Motion to excuse the absence of Council President Norton made by Councilmember Richards, seconded by Councilmember Muller.

AYES: ALL

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented moved by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Muller.

AYES: ALL

Audience Participation

Craig Massie, 7533 49th Drive NE, Marysville, WA expressed concern about a very large increase in garbage and recycling rates.

Tim Kagi, PO Box 871, 905 Beach Avenue, Marysville, WA also expressed concern about garbage and recycling rates. He recommended an option to have a once a month pickup of a can. Mayor Nehring noted that there will be a once a month option in the proposed rate structure for the garbage. The recycling is negotiated with Waste Management.

Stewart Roy, 5111 86th Place NE, expressed concern about the mandatory garbage collection. Mayor Nehring explained this was a policy decision because in the past they have had trouble with people having garbage pile up. This option will provide a once a month option to bring the rate down significantly. There is also a discount option for those low income seniors and disabled. Staff is asking Council to increase this discount from 30% to 40%.

Tim Kagi, PO Box 871, 905 Beach Avenue, Marysville (again) agreed that the recycling rate is the place where it really hurts because it is a fixed rate. Mayor Nehring suggested that Waste Management could address this later in the agenda.

Inez Mayorca, 5806 77th Avenue NE, Marysville, 98270, requested a food compost option for recycling and a once every two month option for garbage pickup.

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the March 7, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the March 7, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes moved by Councilmember Muller seconded by Councilmember King.

VOTE: Motion carried 5 - 0

AYES: Councilmember Vaughan, Councilmember King, Councilmember James, Councilmember Richards, Councilmember Muller

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Stevens

Consent

2. Approval of the March 16, 2022 Claims in the Amount of \$525,377.03 Paid by EFT Transactions and Check Numbers 154147 through 154292 with Check Number 153981 Voided

3. Approval of the March 23, 2022 Claims in the Amount of \$2,851,347.58 Paid by EFT Transactions and Check Numbers 154293 through 154442 with Check Numbers 154324 and 154362 Voided
4. Consider Approving the GeoTest Services, Inc. Supplemental Agreement No. 2 – Professional Services Agreement in the Amount of \$12,460.00 for a Total Allocation of \$354,748.00

Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 2, 3, and 4 moved by Councilmember Richards seconded by Councilmember James.

AYES: ALL

Review Bids

Public Hearings

New Business

9. Consider Approving an Ordinance Amending Chapter 7.08 of the Marysville Municipal Code Relating to Solid Waste Rates

A. Waste Management Recycling Presentation

Marcy Manibusan, Public Sector Manager and Rob Rutledge, District Manager gave a recycling update reviewing their 30-year partnership with the City. Ms. Manibusan discussed China's Operation Blue Sky policy change which disrupted the recycling industry with a lot of supply and no demand. Waste Management had to take measures to improve recycling quality. They are also creating a demand for recyclables. Drivers wear uniforms made out of recycled plastic bottles. Any new carts purchased are made from recycled materials.

Mr. Rutledge discussed Waste Management's local technology investments. Their Cascade Recycling Center (CRC) will be undergoing a full rebuild in 2022. There will be 17 machines with sensors to filter out contaminated material at a much higher rate. Waste Management Smart Truck Technology have cameras that are attached to trucks to improve safety and service and reduced contamination.

Ms. Manibusan reviewed a snapshot of what is being recycled in Marysville with the biggest being cardboard (24.5%), mixed paper (32.7%) and glass (17.8%). About 15% of what they are collecting is not recyclable, called "residue" which slows down processing and increases costs. She reviewed the recycling process and explained that recyclables are transported to the CRC in "Woodinville where they are sorted and sent to end markets to be recycled.

Mayor Nehring asked about the main reason for the substantial price increase. Ms. Manibusan explained that the challenges with the market play a role. Increased costs

with labor and equipment are also a factor. The contract with Marysville is pretty old and hasn't kept up with the cost increases year over year. There are increases happening around Puget Sound with all customers. Additionally, the return on commodities is well behind what it used to be, but it is slowly coming back.

Mayor Nehring asked about a potential monthly recycling service option. Ms. Manibusan noted that the contract with the City dictates what they can provide. The City's contract is up for renewal next year. They were not aware of any jurisdictions with monthly pickup.

Councilmember King asked if Waste Management been impacted by fuel costs. Ms. Manibusan replied that there has been some impact, but 2/3 of the fleet is run on compressed natural gas and they have not seen much of an increase in that.

Councilmember King also asked if newspaper collection is down. Mr. Rutledge didn't know because newspapers aren't separated out; they are comingled with all paper waste.

Councilmember Muller referred to increasing costs and asked about the long-term outlook with recycling. Ms. Manibusan noted that in a new contract there might be ways to share risks and rewards in the commodity values. The City of Duvall is one city that does that. The County also does. Councilmember Muller also noted that there was not a CIP built into the rates so this latest increase has been especially large.

Councilmember James asked why not have a once a month option for recycling. He would like to look into this. He likes the idea of commodity-sharing.

B. Solid Waste Rate Presentation

Matt Hobson, FCS Group, Project Manager summarized the assumptions and methodology of the rates study for 2021 and 2022. He discussed the financial forecast and cost of service for solid waste customer classes of service for the 2022-23 Revenue Requirement and Cost-of-Service Analysis. He explained the 2022-23 Rate Adjustments are being proposed to align revenues with costs. The existing rate revenue cannot sustainably support operating expenses over forecast and cannot sustainably support solid waste services through 2023. There is a proposed two-year rate adjustment strategy effective in May to respond to these revenue challenges. They would still be operating in a deficit for 2022 even with the increase, but by 2023 revenues would increase enough to meet expenses. With the adjustment the City would be able to meet financial reserves and begin replacement of reserves used currently. Finally, he reviewed the proposed 2022-2023 residential rates.

Motion to open public comments moved by Councilmember Richards, seconded by Councilmember King.

AYES: ALL

Public Comments

Mr. Massie asked who FCS represents. Mr. Hobson replied they are an independent financial contracting firm that contracted with the City. Mr. Massie expressed concern because his rates have already increased. Finance Director Langdon noted he was in the Central annexation so his increases might be a little different from what was stated. Mr. Massie asked about the arrangement with Tulalip for incineration. Councilmember Muller explained that there was not enough volume. There are also downsides to the burning of waste.

Stewart Roy asked about Styrofoam recycling. Ms. Manibusan replied Styrofoam is not recyclable in the containers.

Councilmember Richards stated he is also part of the Central Annexation, and he understands the pain of the increased bill and the mandatory collection. He agrees that once monthly recycling should be an option. He also feels that recycling should be optional.

Inez Mayorca, asked if the presentations would be posted on the website. Staff indicated they would make sure those are provided. Ms. Mayorca asked if there are any plans to have food waste recycling. Waste Management will be working with staff to get this sorted out; it is expected that yard waste/food waste will be allowed soon.

Council Discussion

Councilmember James asked about comparables with other cities. Ms. Manibusan stated she could gather some of those.

Councilmember Muller noted this has been a two-year process and was a difficult decision. He thinks the garbage rates are very efficient. The struggle is with recycling.

Councilmember Richards noted they are voting for rates from now through the end of 2023 when the contract with Waste Management ends. Mayor Nehring suggested they could look at amending the code and also at reopening the contract with Waste Management.

Motion to approve Ordinance 3214 moved by Councilmember Muller seconded by Councilmember Vaughan.

AYES: ALL

7. Consider Approving an Ordinance Amending Chapter 3.63 of the Marysville Municipal Code Relating to the Utility Rate Relief

Director Langdon reviewed this item which would increase the utility discount from 30 to 40% for low income senior citizens and disabled.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 3215, Amending Chapter 3.63 of the Marysville Municipal Code Relating to the Utility Rate Relief moved by Councilmember Muller seconded by Councilmember Stevens.

AYES: ALL

Legal

Mayor's Business

Mayor Nehring stated that grants were submitted; hopefully the City will receive some grant money.

Staff Business

Chief McFalls brought attention to a local hero who took quick action this morning. Off Duty Asst. Police Chief Jim Lawless and another gentleman performed CPR on a man who was experiencing cardiac arrest near Fred Meyer until emergency responders could arrive.

Call on Councilmembers and Committee Reports

Jeff Vaughan had no comments.

Mark James reported that the Government Affairs meeting with the Tulalip Tribal Board was a good meeting.

Tom King:

- Thanks to guest presenters tonight. He would like to look at this in the future to see if there is a solution for those who do not generate much garbage or recycling.
- He also commented on the Government Affairs Committee meeting with the Tribes. They talked about art projects, public works projects, and the upcoming school levy. He also personally thanked them for supporting the Strawberry Festival.
- He commented on the right-turn only lanes at 5th and 7th and State Avenue.
- Last Weekend was the Daffodil Festival. They took the float down to four parades down south.

Michael Stevens had no comments.

Kelly Richards:

- He did a ride along with Battalion Commander Soper last week and got to see all the firehouses.
- Last Tuesday he got on a garbage truck to see how they cruise through the streets and where they dump in Arlington. He also rode on a vector truck in the afternoon to see what they do.

- The Government Affairs meeting was a good exchange of ideas.
- He's not happy about the rate increase but understands that it needs to be done. He thinks they need to look into more affordable recycling options.
- He congratulated Asst. Chief Lawless for his lifesaving work today.
- He encouraged everyone to vote on the levy.

Steve Muller:

- He expressed appreciation to Asst. Chief Lawless for saving a life today.
- He reported on the April 1 Public Works Committee meeting where they reviewed the organizational chart. They also talked about various issues at the wastewater treatment facility and received an update on the 100th Street North improvements project.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Councilmember Richards seconded by Councilmember Muller.

AYES: ALL

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2022.

Mayor
Jon Nehring