

MINUTES OF THE GILBERT PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY BOARD, IN REGULAR MEETING OF MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024, AT 3:00 PM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING I, HERITAGE ROOM 300, GILBERT, ARIZONA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Co-Chair Sam Elliot, Members Karen Goldwasser, Eric McLeskey, Jason Gilmore and Jason Robinson (via Teams)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Fariya Sharif, Members Matt Carpenter, David Barazoto and Greg Froehlich

STAFF PRESENT: Public Works Director Jessica Marlow, Assistant Public Works Directors Eric Braun and Giao Pham, Interim Wastewater Manager Patty Jordan, Environmental Compliance Manager Hondo Judd, and Town Clerk Specialist June Wilson

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Sam Elliott called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Town Clerk Specialist Wilson called roll and declared a quorum present.

AGENDA ITEMS

3. Approve February 12, 2024 Minutes

A MOTION was made by Co-Chair Sam Elliott, seconded by Member Jason Gilmore, to approve the February 12, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Wastewater Deep Dive

Assistant Public Works Director Braun opened the discussion of Wastewater and Environmental Compliance and stated tours would be available in the following weeks. He gave an overview of the Public Works organizational chart and listed the

different lines of services they covered. He discussed wastewater facts for the Town which included 22,000 manholes, 912 miles of gravity sewer, two wastewater treatment plants, 78 miles of reclaimed waterlines, and much more. He concluded that they had 500 million dollars in assets and 19 million gallons of water per day were collected, treated, and reused or recharged. He covered Wastewater Quality and their responsibilities of providing commercial and industrial pretreatment inspections, regulatory education, and enforcement of pretreatment requirements and flow investigations.

Wastewater collections were responsible for cleaning and inspecting pipelines and manholes for cracks. He stated the Town had 16 lift stations and explained how they worked, how the town received the water, and what happened once it reached that facility. He discussed the corrosion control and construction team and their services, including testing to ensure there was not too much hydrogen sulfide in the air.

Next, he discussed Gilbert's two wastewater reclamation plants. The Neeley Wastewater treated 10 million gallons of water per day with a capacity to treat 11 million gallons per day. They have open basin recharge facilities on site with some solar panels that provide electricity to run the Neeley water plant. The Greenfield Water Reclamation Plant was owned by Gilbert, Mesa, and Queen Creek. They reuse the reclaimed wastewater for parks, Home Owner's Association (HOA) green spaces, and golf courses. Those recharge facilities receive the recharged water which was stored in aquifers until needed. The Riparian Reserve ponds were designed to allow water to percolate into the ground very quickly into the aquifers. The state required us to monitor the quality of the water to make sure the water we add to the aquifer does not deteriorate the quality of the water in the aquifer.

He discussed challenges for Gilbert Wastewater including the Islands force main failure in February 2023. He explained that the team had an emergency system in place and within 48 hours they had a temporary fix in place and by the next month, they installed the permanent pipe in place. He stated that emergencies were more costly than proactive maintenance. Their pipe age and corrosion projects would remove the items that react with the hydrogen gas and replace them with items that do not react to the gas. He touched on the Capital projects for repair & cleanup and odor control which included the Western Canal at Guadalupe.

He touched on the Riparian Preserve stating it was in excellent condition and they had an upcoming project to increase the flow from 4 million gallons a day to 8 million gallons a day. He stated they had applied for a Federal Grant to help pay for the project.

He concluded with the Wastewater apprenticeship to hire program they were looking to implement that year. To help fill the vacancies within the department.

Member Goldwasser asked what their ask of them was. Assistant Director Pham stated they wanted to make sure they were informed on all the lines of the services and there was no ask at that time.

Member Goldwasser wanted to know how they were going to pay for those projects and stated concerns about the recent utility rate increases. Assistant Director Pham stated they are always looking at how to balance those costs. Public Works Director Marlow stated that from 2007 to 2018 the utilities did not go up at all, and trash service went down. She added that recently they had to increase rates, due to the inflation for capital construction projects because those costs had increased. Assistant Public Works Director Braun said in the past they were only funded day-to-day operations from the utility rates and realized they would eventually need to replace equipment. Assistant Director Pham said they now proactively prepared for maintenance which led to less frustration and was a smarter move. Co-chair Elliott stated that each Capital Improvement Project (CIP) cost model review process was very particular, and every cost has to be justified. Member Gilmore stated their goal for that day was to learn about the processes and not to discuss rates.

5. Environmental Compliance Deep Dive

Environmental Compliance Manager Judd discussed the Environmental Compliance division, he gave an overview of the organizational chart and the respective departments. He discussed the different division duties and the different types of permits that Environmental Permitting and Compliance provide. He explained the Stormwater Regulatory Requirements the Town was required to follow. He stated that stormwater was not treated in the wastewater treatment plants it flowed into local waterways, and retention basins, including lake communities.

He discussed the six control measures for the Town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. Which included public education, outreach, involvement, and participation. He said the Town partnered with Green Gilbert Business Partnership, Parks and Recreation events, Boys and Girls Club, and Earth Day Community Service Events. Those partnerships helped with education, outreach, involvement, and participation within the community.

He explained the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program (IDDE). He said it included a comprehensive plan, educational programs, training, regular monitoring, protocols for responding, documentation, and a commitment to continual improvement. He added that those requirements were aimed at

preventing pollution. He gave examples of common pollutants such as oil, grease, fertilizers, and pesticides, and how they enter the stormwater system. He discussed an IDDE incident where a company dumped concrete on the road and washed it into the stormwater system. He said a resident reported the incident and they were able to find the company responsible and they were required to come and clean up the concrete. He gave examples of how issues can be reported by using Gilbert 311 online, and the phone application, or call customer service.

He reviewed the Construction and Post-Construction Stormwater Management section and stated everyone was required to have a stormwater plan on site. He explained the different types of Stormwater Conveyance Structures and how they could become impacted. He discussed how they were cleaned up and what the consequences of poor stormwater infrastructure maintenance could do to roadways and properties.

He stated the town was going to dual chamber dry wells and explained how they worked. He talked about the four stormwater pumping stations and how excess water from those stations could go to the western canal or a lake. He went over examples of good and poor construction practices for stormwater protection from cement, sediment, paint, and oils.

Member Gilmore asked who would be responsible for fixing those issues. Environmental Compliance Manager Judd said they enforced the rules and the contractors would be responsible for fixing the issue.

Environmental Compliance Manager Judd stated the Town of Gilbert was in the process of creating a Stormwater Master Plan. It was part of a long-range infrastructure plan to be proactive rather than reactive.

He gave an overview of the Air Quality Regulations and the Town's community resources for pollutants to watch for, a dust brochure, and text/email alerts for high pollution advisory days.

He explained the purpose of the Household Hazardous Waste Facility (HHW). It was opened in 2007 and they had one Supervisor, one Lead Technician, and three Technicians on site. He discussed the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). He said when a resident dropped off hazardous waste we now owned it. So, if it ended up in the desert and they determined it came from the Town of Gilbert then the Town was responsible for the cleanup. He went over their duties and responsibilities which included safety, bulking, sorting, and labeling. He gave examples of the recycling process and stated that the recycling service was only for Gilbert residents. He explained the Swap Shop was for materials brought in by

residents that were still suitable for reuse like cleaning products, vehicle oil/fluids, and weed killer. He stated it was open to everyone, not just Gilbert residents.

He explained the Internal Hazardous Waste Management section went over the regulatory compliance, outreach, and compliance assistance, and gave examples of internal hazardous materials. He said they completed Tier II reporting for first responders. This was to ensure they would know what kind of hazards they may come in contact with in an emergency at that site.

Member Goldwasser asked if there was a way to bring in other cities to help reduce the Town's costs for running the HHW. Environmental Compliance Manager Judd said Queen Creek (QC) had an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Town but it had a limit on what they could bring to us. He said that QC residents had to get a voucher from their town and bring it to Gilbert when they brought recycling items. Then Gilbert billed Queen Creek monthly based on the number of vouchers received. He also mentioned the City of Mesa had their own HHW and that was why we did not have an agreement with them.

Environmental Compliance Manager Judd concluded his presentation with a quote "It's not about the water in your life but the life in your water."

COMMUNICATIONS

6. Report from Staff

Assistant Public Works Director Braun and Assistant Director Pham stated they were looking into scheduling optional site visit tours of the facilities for 2-3 hours at the beginning of April.

7. Report from Board Members

Member Goldwasser asked about the bond that the Council pushed out. Assistant Public Works Director Braun said that the plan they approved was the same as the board approved, and it all relied upon the formation of a bond. Member Goldwasser asked about the budget being fiscal or yearly and Assistant Public Works Director Braun confirmed it was fiscal. Member Goldwasser had questions about all the numbers in the departments budget and wanted to understand the money and if there were any funds that could come from other sources. Public Works Director Braun stated that Water was the only utility with a bond attached. He explained that in a 0-based budget, it was still an ongoing expense.

8. Report from Council Liaison

No report from Council Liaison

9. Report from Chair

No report from Chair

10. Future Agenda Items

Assistant Director Pham reminded the group of the future agenda items listed on the agenda.

CONCLUSION

11. ADJOURN

Co-Chair Sam Elliott adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

Sam Elliott, Co-Chair

Giao Pham, Staff Liaison