

## **Environmental Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes June 2, 2015**

The Matthews Environmental Committee met in regular session on June 2nd, 2015 at the Public Works Facility. Members present were Chairman Gordon Miller, David Ross, John Lynch and Bob Stratton. Also present were David Holt from Republic Services, along with Ralph Messera and Rosalind Cumming from Public Works.

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The May minutes were reviewed and approved.

Mr. Holt gave the Republic Services report stating that yard waste had been caught up and that all residential trash and recycles were running well. He announced that the new general manager of the Charlotte division of Republic Services is Jimmy Torrey, who he hopes to bring to the next meeting. He also mentioned that Republic has hired four new employees in residential trash, who are already undergoing training and should be out in the trucks soon. He also mentioned the pizza lunch that was held for the Republic drivers at the Public Works facility, and how it was received well with the drivers. It provided a good opportunity for the drivers to talk and communicate issues with the Town of Matthews.

The issue of plastic bags being used for yard waste and then left at residences was then discussed. Public Works has received many phone calls from irate residents over the years about the empty plastic bags from the yard waste being left in their yards, trash containers, etc. Mr. Holt said that the procedure is for the yard waste truck to empty the plastic bags in to their truck and then take the empty bags with them on the side of the truck. Occasionally there have been residents who want their bags left to reuse them, and then the yard waste truck has left the bags for the resident. The majority of residents do not want the bags left, and so it has become a problem when they are discarded.

Mr. Holt also said that sometimes there is an overflow of the bags and the yard waste truck contacts the bulk truck to pick the bags up for them. In this situation, the yard waste truck will leave the bags at a residents house or in their can etc. It was discussed as this has become an issue, that going forward all plastic bags must be taken, unless there is a resident standing at the truck stating they want their bags left.

It was suggested that if the truck needs to leave excess bags temporarily, to make sure they leave them on either Town property or on a street corner, not on any residents' property. That way we will not have residents complaining.

On other solid waste issues, it was discussed that the Public Works department has been involved with and reviewed the recycling calendars for the coming fiscal year. They are currently in the process of being printed and will then be mailed out to all Matthews residents.

Under storm water issues, notice of violation for 10416 E. Independence Boulevard was discussed. A sewer had been stopped up at this location, allowing sewage to flow into a storm drain which drained into Irwins creek. A NOV was sent to the landlord of the shopping center. This violation happened twice within a two month period.

A penalty was initiated and sent by the Town Manager. A response to the penalty was received stating that the lender had foreclosed on this property and the partnership was no longer in existence, and the owner on record at the time was now in Florida. According to Rusty Rozzelle of Mecklenburg County, and the Town attorney, the liability stays with the original owner. However, a federal lawsuit would probably have to be filed to handle this. The Committee states that the penalty may be uncollectible at this time.

The NOV that occurred at 2601 Briar Trail Court, was then discussed. Sewage was observed to have been pumped from the resident's septic tank into the yard, where it ran into a ditch and into several other yards. There did seem to be a language barrier between the homeowner and the county, but the notice of violation was sent and a note was received back stating the cleanup had been done. It was the consensus of this committee to go ahead and levy the penalty to the homeowner. They will be provided with the opportunity to appeal.

Regarding Air Quality, Mr. Ross reported that the old Rexham facility reported that they had handled their emissions incorrectly, but when they fixed and re-reported, they were still in compliance. Everyone else in the Matthews area was also in compliance, and there were no violations of air quality in the past month in Matthews. It was mentioned, that we will be getting new ozone standards in October, but as of now, we remain in compliance.

Regarding Physical Agents, Mr. Messera stated that he had passed comments from the engine brake regulation discussion in the last meeting, back to the Mayor. There were no other physical agent issues.

Under other business, the tentative plan for the garbage contract was discussed. Mrs. Cumming stated that she had sent the SOQ out to the following companies:

Republic Services  
Advanced Disposal  
Waste Mgmt  
Waste Pro

Signature  
Waste Connections  
God Bless the USA  
RCS  
Green Day  
Action  
ALL Points Waste Services  
Waste Industries

One SOQ was returned. Mrs. Cumming mentioned that she had called the company Action Garbage Services, from whom the SOQ had been returned. They had answered their phone with “Waste Pro”, indicating that company has been taken over by Waste Pro. No other information has been received back from the mailings. SOQ’s should be received during June, and at that time Public Works will review and make a decision on how best to get the material out to the committee. Mr. Messera said as a reminder that if the trash contract is put out to bid, that anyone can submit a bid.

Also under other business, it was discussed that this is Mr. Messera’s last meeting as he is retiring from the Town of Matthews effective June 30<sup>th</sup>. The committee all wished to thank him for all the work he has done and his participation with this committee. It was also mentioned that he would be welcomed back as a citizen or he is welcome to apply to become a member.

With other business completed, a motion was made at 8:05 pm to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded, and passed. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Rosalind Cumming  
Secretary