

City of Amarillo
Environmental Task Force

On October 22, 2020, the Environmental Task Force met remotely via Zoom at 12:00 P.M., with the following members present:

MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Tim Dillon	Y	5	5
Roger Gloe	Y	10	9
Michael Graham	Y	10	6
David Moody	Y	5	5
Adam Schaer	N	5	2
Howard Smith	Y	18	15
Ryan Zimmer	Y	10	9
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS/STAFF			
Blair Snow	Y		

The following guests were also present:

Julie Allegretti, Utilities Program Manager
Jonathan Gresham, Director of Utilities
Julie Herman, Public Works Program Coordinator
Damen Ratliff, Assistant Director of Utilities
Izzy Rivera, Building Official
Will Smith, Superintendent of Solid Waste
Courtney White - City Attorney I
Craig Workman, Assistant Superintendent of Solid Waste (Disposal)

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 P.M. by Ryan Zimmer, Chairman. The following items of business were conducted:

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

2. MINUTES

Motion to approve the September 24, 2020 minutes as written was made by Roger Gloe, seconded by Howard Smith and passed with a 6-0 vote.

3. DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Julie Allegretti discussed having daily water use publicized in the news in March with the weather between March and September (peak usage time of year). Ryan discussed talking to the schools and posting water conservation and winterizing tips in the media and on the City website and Facebook page. Julie Allegretti is discussing giveaways for water conservation ideas with Communications and Legal Departments.

4. DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS

Julie Allegretti discussed revising the definition of water waste in the City ordinance and noted the difficulty with finding conclusive evidence of waste. The task force agreed not to use wording regarding 50 ft. The revised ordinance will address watering schedules (calendar, addresses, times of day) with exceptions for hand-held hose use and necessary irrigation. Task force members agreed that the ordinance requirements are a preventive measure from reaching the Drought Contingency Plan guidelines. Julie Allegretti stated that enforcement would address offenders who knowingly or recklessly violate the ordinance and penalties will be enforced. Requiring inspections when properties are sold was also discussed. The goal is to reduce water

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use below the current amount of 30 million gallons/day in the winter and 60 million gallons/day in the summer by not wasting water or watering less. Enforcement and education are necessary. Jonathan Gresham stated that the Utilities Department does not have enough staff to enforce the ordinance at this time. Jonathan will vet the proposed ordinance changes with area associations, obtain review by the Legal Department and provide the draft ordinance revision to the task force for review before submitting it to City Council.

ACTION: Julie Allegretti (Jonathan Gresham) work with Courtney White and Ryan Zimmer to draft wording regarding excessive water use for the ordinance.

5. DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION INCENTIVES

Izzy Rivera reported that he is currently meeting with a construction advisor. The plumbing code addresses rainwater harvesting. The City code book identifies when permits are required. Inspections of irrigation systems would have to be addressed in the code book and performed by private inspectors. Repair work triggers City involvement. Izzy Rivera would like to discuss incentives with the various area associations (14 or 15 total) before taking it to City Council. New codes will be enforced if/when approved. Julie Allegretti discussed rain sensor rebates and stated that there have been no rebates claimed in the past 3 to 5 years. The rebates only apply to retrofitted systems. Placing flyers in billing statements and promoting water conservation on social media were also discussed.

6. SET DATE AND AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Task Force will be held remotely via Zoom on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 12:00 PM. Agenda items will include water conservation incentives, proposed ordinance changes (Jonathan Gresham, Utilities Department) and composting updates (Will Smith, Solid Waste Division).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 PM.