



COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers, 10501 SE Main Street
& Zoom Video Conference (www.milwaukieoregon.gov)

MINUTES

MARCH 19, 2024

Council Present: Councilors Shane Abma, Adam Khosroabadi, Rebecca Stavenjord, and Council President Robert Massey, and Mayor Lisa Batey

Staff Present: Justin Gericke, City Attorney
Peter Passarelli, Public Works Director
Michael Osborne, Finance Director
Emma Sagor, Assistant City Manager
Scott Stauffer, City Recorder

Mayor Batey called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

1. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) – Update

Passarelli explained what PFAS are and how they have been used by different industries, how they are monitored and regulated by federal and state governments and noted coming changes in advisory levels of PFAS. **Passarelli** reported the location and levels of detected PFAS in Milwaukie in recent years.

Councilor Abma and **Passarelli** remarked on sources of PFAS in Milwaukie, how PFAS monitors work in relation to groundwater monitors.

Passarelli noted the next steps staff would take to continue to monitor PFAS levels and work with state agencies to study how to treat PFAS. The group commented on existing PFAS treatment methods, what it meant for human health to be exposed to PFAS, and why the federal and state regulation changes were initially advisory only. **Passarelli** explained how the state monitors PFAS levels in riverways.

Councilor Abma and **Passarelli** remarked on the susceptibility of Milwaukie's water source to PFAS compared to other cities in the area and whether there was a homebased system residents could install to address PFAS.

Sagor thanked Passarelli for proactively monitoring PFAS on behalf of Milwaukie.

2. Houseless Services – Update (removed from the agenda)

3. Credit Card Fees – Discussion

Sagor explained that a growing cost to the city were bank and software fees related to customers making payments with credit and debit cards. **Osborne** and **Sagor** noted ways the city could encourage customers to stop paying with cards, including an educational campaign encouraging customers to not pay by card, lowering the limit for payments that could be made with a card, and charging a convenience fee to customers.

The group discussed how the city could mitigate the rising cost of fees, noting that other cities were experiencing the same problem and how bank and software fees were structured, and remarking on whether multiple cities could work together to encourage banks and software providers to lower fees.

The group discussed limiting the fee amount that could be paid by credit card for building and development fees while continuing to take smaller monthly utility payments, and the feasibility of setting a scalable percentage fee so a convenience charge was appropriate

to the amount being paid. Council expressed interest in seeing additional data that broke down what types of fees were being paid by card.

Councilor Stavenjord and **Osborne** remarked on whether the city could approach card fees like low-income assistance programs do.

Sagor and **Osborne** summarized that staff would provide additional information to Council as part of the upcoming consolidated fee schedule update, including options related to library fine payments. The group remarked on how the library's payment system charged patrons and whether it allowed for a running fine amount to accrue over time.

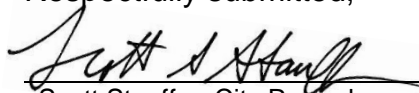
Councilor Abma asked if alternative payment methods could be offered to avoid the fees. Sagor noted staff would investigate alternate payment methods.

The group noted the timeline for possible changes to the collection of card fees and the adoption of an updated consolidated fee schedule and biennial budget.

4. Adjourn

Mayor Batey adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Stauffer, City Recorder