

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, June 26, 2017**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, June 26, 2017, at 5:00 p.m., in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Office Building. The following members were present: Commissioner Bynum, Chairman; Commissioners Philbrook, Kane, Murguia, Johnson; and Jeff Bryant, BPU Board Member. The following officials were also in attendance: Gordon Criswell, Joe Connor and Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrators; Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel; Henry Couchman, Senior Attorney; Ryan Haga, Assistant Counsel; Meaghan Shultz, Attorney; Jeremy Rogers, Director of Parks & Recreation; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Matt May, Emergency Management Director; and Jack Webb, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation.

Chairman Bynum called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Approval of standing committee minutes for April 24, 2017. **On motion of Commissioner Markley, seconded by Johnson, the minutes were approved.** Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 171164...RESOLUTION: JUVENILE CENTER/MEMORIAL HALL WEST REPAIRS

Synopsis: A resolution declaring the necessity and authorizing a survey and descriptions of lands necessary for the construction, maintenance, operation, use and repair of the Unified Government Juvenile Center Complex and attendant parking area, submitted by Ryan Haga, Assistant Counsel.

Ryan Haga, Assistant Counsel, said this item is a basic resolution or Kansas law that we have to pass in order to acquire any lands by condemnation for the property west of Memorial Hall for a parking lot that's going to be created in conjunction with the Juvenile Center Complex construction.

Action: Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Bryant, Philbrook, Markley, Kane, Johnson, Bynum.

Item No. 2 – 171163...RESOLUTION: BPU ROSEDALE ELECTRIC SUBSTATION

Synopsis: A resolution declaring the necessity and authorizing a survey and descriptions of lands necessary for the construction, maintenance, operation, use and repair of the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities' new 161kV Rosedale Electric Substation, submitted by Ryan Haga, Assistant Counsel.

Ryan Haga, Assistant Counsel, said the same thing is required by Kansas law for any potential condemnation proceedings for the land that we need for the building of the Rosedale Electric Substation. If you have any other questions regarding condemnation, I can answer that. Any questions regarding the substation project, Pat Morrill is here to answer any questions.

Action: BPU Board Member Bryant made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Bryant, Philbrook, Markley, Kane, Johnson, Bynum.

Item No. 3 – 171161...ORDINANCE: AMEND SECTION 35-651 RELATING TO SEAT BELT FINES

Synopsis: An ordinance amending the fine set for violating the seat belt ordinance as set out in Section 35-651 of the Code of Ordinances for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, submitted by Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel. These changes are necessary to comply with state law. It is requested that this item be fast tracked to the June 29, 2017 full commission meeting.

Meaghan Shultz, Attorney, said Kansas State Legislature passed a statute changing the seat belt fine. It has increased for adults from \$10 to \$30; \$20 of which the municipalities and counties must send to the state treasurer to increase the amount of money for the SAFE Program. This is required by state statute so we have amended our ordinance. We have left it in our ordinance, not

specifically at \$30. We've had it as a Municipal Court order, that way if they change the ordinance in the future, we do not have to change our ordinance.

Chairman Bynum said so basically we're coming into compliance with a state law and we've left the wording such that if the state law changes again, we won't have to go through this process again. **Ms. Shultz** said correct.

Action: **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Bryant, Philbrook, Markley, Kane, Johnson, Bynum.

Item No. 4 – 171168...RESOLUTION: WHOLESALE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SERVICE CONTRACT WITH EDWARDSVILLE, KS

Synopsis: A resolution authorizing the Unified Government to enter into a wholesale wastewater treatment service contract with the city of Edwardsville, KS, submitted by Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel.

Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel, said what we have before us tonight is a resolution that would authorize the Unified Government to enter into an agreement with Edwardsville for a wholesale wastewater sewer agreement. Staff has worked on this agreement for—I would love to say quickly, but it's been over the last two years as we've hammered out the details of it. We believe we've finally gotten to a place where we've calculated an appropriate wholesale rate. State statute would require Commission approval before we could enter into the agreement with Edwardsville. I do know it's going in front of their Commission this evening so we think this is going to be the beginning of a very positive thing.

Chairman Bynum said I just wanted to comment briefly that the city of Edwardsville, as I read the packet, they believe this to be in their best interest so there is no sentiment against it. They are in agreement. **Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrator,** said Edwardsville actually requested the wholesale rate and we worked with them to come up with it. This has been a multi-year project to get this to fruition.

It's also part of the reason, as we were stating in the budget, that we want to do a sewer rate study as well. Part of the hold up this last year on finalizing this agreement was the fact that we weren't easily able to quantify a wholesale rate with them. We had to come out to some agreed upon terms that Misty has had to work through to help us kind of get there. Ideally, this has been aspired for some time and it has taken us some since I came on board to get this moved through. It's exciting to see tonight both communities working to implement this.

Action: **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Bryant, Philbrook, Markley, Kane, Johnson, Bynum.

Chairman Bynum said items five, six and seven are all revisions to County Emergency Operations. Mr. May is here. I think we've asked this question in the past that these have to be approved one at a time. Is that correct? **Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel**, said that is correct. **Chairman Bynum** said I had asked Mr. May, prior to us approving these three items, to give us a very brief update of his department's work over this storm weekend that we experienced a week ago because I just thought here we are in the middle of all of these upgrades and here comes a pretty massive storm. I appreciate you taking the time to do this, just very quickly. I think it's important that our community understands that number one, what I thought was a really well done response, so if you would just show us what you did.



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Matt May, Emergency Management Director, said most importantly, let me start with it was certainly a team effort. **Chairman Bynum** said I agree. **Mr. May** said Public Works, law enforcement, Fire; we were all in on this. Let me just show you a little bit of the impact if you haven't had a chance to ride around town and see it. This is going to be a lot of pictures and just a little bit of text here to start with.

Debris Management



This is what I ran into Saturday morning about 3:30 when I went to check on a friend of mine at 83rd Terrace & Yecker. It was about six blocks of this and for me to get to her house, it took an hour. That's what people were dealing with.

What, When, Where, Why...

- Friday evening, June 16th, severe thunder storms with extremely high winds entered into Wyandotte County. Winds approximately 80 mph were recorded by an official observer as well as the National Weather Service.
- These high winds resulted in significant vegetative debris damage with large trees.
- Primary impact area was between State Avenue and Leavenworth Road along with 50th & 90th Street.
- Significant power outage, 11,000 out

The 16th we had severe thunderstorms that moved through. We had report of an 80 mile an hour wind here in the county. That's just into the hurricane range, right. We were into a class one hurricane. The result, as we all know, is a significant amount of tree damage and a lot of power line outage. We had 11,000 out at one point. That was Friday night, Saturday morning.

What, When, Where, Why...

- The following day, Saturday June 17th, was a repeat performance ___ weather structure with only slightly less impactful ___ winds at 70 mph.
- Damage area was primarily 50th & 78th Streets, south of State Avenue.
- Primary impact was tree vegetative debris which resulted in power loss over 13,000 customers.
- Debris management began with public works clearing the streets so that emergency response could have access to those in need and residents to move to another location if needed.



The next day guess what, we got to do a repeat of that, a little different area of impact, a little more to the south than that one and we had about 13,000 out at one point. The biggest challenge for our friends at BPU was that it was a lot of single outs because it was a live tree taking our power connections to homes. They were struggling to get caught up on all that but they did very quickly. Public Works again out clearing those streets trying to make sure at least we have a passageway for emergency response and for people to get in and out of their neighborhoods.

What, When, Where, Why...

- In the week following over 1,000 calls were reported by 311 requesting information on debris removal. Proper guidance was given that home owners should place debris curb side and easement for the waste management department or public works to remove.
- Among the 1,000 calls into 311, were 5 that indicated they did not have the means to remove the debris to the curb or easement.



In the week following we had about 1,000 phone calls. I think it's more than that. Our 311 folks can tell more. I know that we're still getting calls because I got the report this morning, right. Out of those 1,000 calls for service to get pickups done, we identified 5 people who had said I just don't have the wherewithal to get that debris to the curb, either based on size or just inability to do that.

What, When, Where, Why...

- ▶ Thursday 22nd, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers were organized by the emergency management office and were given access from the home owners to remove debris for them.
- ▶ On Saturday 24th, within 5 hours, a team of 9 CERTs were able to clear 4 of the 5 lots.
- ▶ The 5th home, due to extremely dense, large scale trees, the EM department is attempting to find resources for debris removal.



I rallied in my office our CERT Team (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteers, asked them to come and show up on Saturday and went out and in five hours we were able to clear four of those five homes. One home we couldn't really support was a home that was so densely treed and the trees were so large. They were really outside of the scope of my volunteer group to do. I'm going to try and work with some other volunteer organizations that have more power, so to speak, to take care of this stuff and see if I can get that one lady taken care because she genuinely has a need.

Debris Management



Here are a couple of those pictures. Again, more pictures from 83rd Terrace & Yecker.

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Debris Management



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Debris Management



This was later in the week as we went around and Amy Hays, my intern, and I went around today. She's with me back here. We went around and actually inspected the homes before we committed to doing them. We wanted to make sure it was, again, within our scope. So you see some of these are just big pieces that they couldn't—they had done all the rest. They had picked up all the pieces. You can see that. There's no small debris lying. This was stuff they couldn't handle. That's what you see, what it looked like, big pieces in some cases.

Debris Management



Debris Management



This is what the home at 2046 N. 32nd Street looked like when we got there to inspect it.

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Debris Management



This is what it looked like after my team got it done. They did an awesome job. It's a great group of volunteers. I'll show you a picture here in a second.

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Debris Management



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Debris Management



Debris Management



This is them cleaning up those yards, getting this stuff moved out. Again, a morning's work and we got these folks taken care of.

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There's the team; a great group of folks.

Chairman Bynum said that's awesome. Thank you so much! One quick question for you because I know of two places where nothing has been moved. I don't have any way of knowing if they're two of the five that have called you. Apparently they aren't. If I were to reach out to them to ask do you need help. **Mr. May** said what I would ask is that we follow the same process. Have them call 311 and self-identify as I don't have any other way to get this to the curb. If we need to rally the troops again, we'll do it. **Chairman Bynum** said I really appreciate the update and like I said, it was just very timely.

BPU Board Member Bryant said I want to put a plug in while you're on this topic. You know the second storm came through and it was really actually more damaging than the first. At one point, the BPU actually called in three other cities for assistance. The one that I want to give the shout out to is Ottawa who sent their entire electric force to Kansas City, KS, knowing that if anything would have happened in their city, they had no one. They informed us that hey, we may have to in an emergency leave, but their entire crew came to KCK to help. It was a joint effort. **Mr. May** said that's great. Utilities are always impressive on how you guys do mutual aid with each other. It's awesome.

Chairman Bynum said I would just thank you, your staff and all of the departments that were involved in it. It came up quickly. It did a surprisingly amount of damage. All of us that were

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out the next morning were just kind of shocked at what it had done. Like you said, again, on Saturday night—and I'm just really appreciative of the entire response at both the UG and BPU level.

Commissioner Philbrook said the biggest thing I noticed it was so spotty. **Mr. May** said it was. **Commissioner Philbrook** said it was very spotty. I mean one or two houses, things were just torn apart around them and the next, you know the whole block everything else was like nothing and so I imagine it made it even more difficult to figure out. **Mr. May** said there's no path to go look for. **Commissioner Philbrook** said there was no path, there was no rhyme or reason as just to get hit and that was it. You were just looking at pieces, little pot marks all over the place.

Mr. May said really we didn't get a feel for how this was until the 311 calls came in. Working with 311, getting our residents to understand that was the best methodology to know where the issues are, I think, worked well and we worked really closely with the Chief Knowledge Officer, the 311 staff and Brett to make sure they had good information. I thought we did a pretty good job of getting the public information out.

We did open a cooling center. We had several cooling centers that are on our regular lists. We opened what I call the late hours, one because of the issue there. Fortunately, nobody came. That's good. That means they're taking care of themselves but we wanted to be prepared for that.

Item No. 5 – 171162...PROPOSED REVISIONS: COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN, ESF 4 - FIREFIGHTING

Synopsis: Request approval of proposed revisions to Section ESF 4 – Firefighting of the County Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP), submitted by Matt May, Emergency Management Director.

Matt May, Emergency Management Director, said ESF 4 is just that, its fire suppression. Again, like we've been doing all along with this we held a workshop meeting, got the key stakeholders involved, asked for revisions, made sure that they met the Kansas Planning Standards. We've got this before you to hold. We're very close. We probably have two more rounds of this to do and we'll be ready to call this good and get this thing in the books.

Action: Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by BPU Board Member Bryant, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Bryant, Philbrook, Markley, Kane, Johnson, Bynum.

Item No. 6 – 171165...PROPOSED REVISIONS: COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN, ESF #9 - SEARCH AND RESCUE

Synopsis: Request approval of proposed revisions to Section ESF 9 - Search and Rescue of the County Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP), submitted by Matt May, Emergency Management Director.

Matt May, Emergency Management Director, said that would be ESF 9. Again, more or less, in our world, that’s the same group of folks so we did them together with ESF 10, which we’ll bring you next month, the stakeholders.

Action: Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Bryant, Philbrook, Markley, Kane, Johnson, Bynum.

Item No. 7 – 171167...PROPOSED REVISIONS: COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN, ESF 14 - ASSESSMENT, RECOVERY AND MITIGATION

Synopsis: Request approval of proposed revisions to Section ESF 14 - Assessment, Recovery and Mitigation of the County Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP), submitted by Matt May, Emergency Management Director.

Matt May, Emergency Management Director, said this is the big piece. This is the part that can go on for literally years. Joplin, for example, six years later now is still in the recovery phase so it’s really important that we understand that this is the launching blocks for a full recovery plan.

My intentions are in the next couple of years to develop a stand-alone, long-term recovery plan. This gets us going because you have to start thinking recovery during the middle of the response phase to get that going correctly. We had a lot of different stakeholders in this one. Not

so many of the usual suspects, if you will, a lot of community involvement, the Chamber of Commerce; those kinds of folks because everyone gets impact in recovery.

Action: **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Bryant, Philbrook, Markley, Kane, Johnson, Bynum.

Commissioner Philbrook said I’m for—I just want a clarification real quick because you were saying the recovery. The recovery you said starts immediately; that kicks in immediately right along the assessment **Mr. May** said you got to be thinking about it for sure. **Commissioner Philbrook** said well, no. I’m just asking because it’s like when does recovery start now. The recovery starts right along with what’s going on and follows through until you’re through with mitigation. **Mr. May** said there’s a whole cycle for this. It’s the beginning of the next go round, which is, in fact, mitigating, trying to stop what happened. We can’t do that; we prepare for it and then we go back into response and recovery. We just keep going through that cycle.

Item No. 8 – 171172... UPDATE: MOWING

Synopsis: Public Works and Parks and Recreation will be updating the Commission on the status of the new mowing initiative that the UG adopted out of the SOAR program, submitted by Jeremy Rogers, Director of Parks and Recreation.



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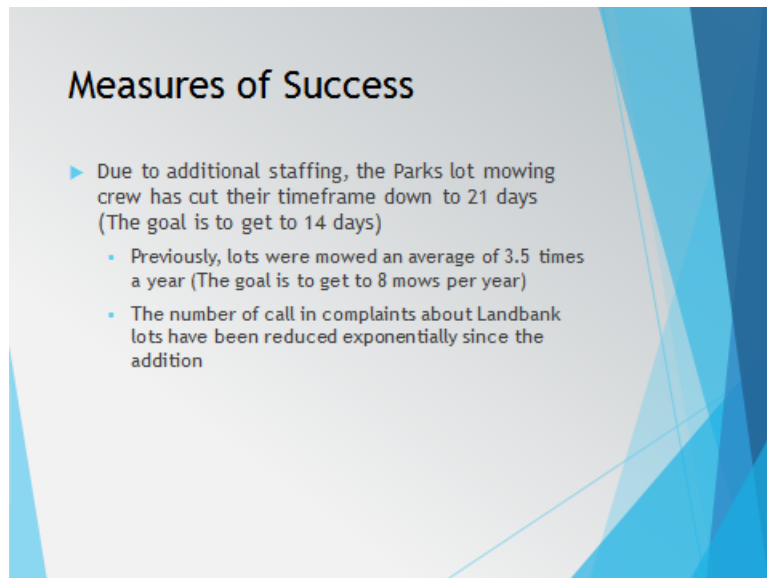
Jeremy Rogers, Director of Parks and Recreation, said we are here to give you an update on the mowing program that we spoke to you about last fall and let you guys know where it stands.



Here are some of the changes that we made for 2017. We reorganized Parks & Recreation to include a new reassigned staff dedicated to lot mowing and a Quick Response Trash Team (QRTT.) Those folks were currently employed under the Public Works system and now they are working for us in Parks & Recreation.

We increased communication between Parks and Code Enforcement. We are in the process of creating an inventory/classification of lots to establish a new tiered mowing system. That is ongoing. As we get into it, we're learning what requires a higher priority than other lots. We're working through that as we speak.

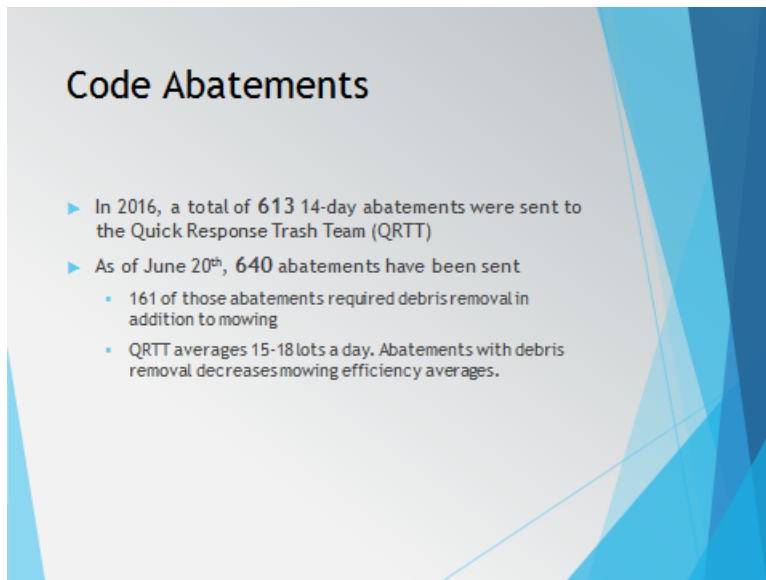
We initiated a Chemical Spraying Program for Parks and Land Bank lots. The first round was done not too long ago. It takes 30 days to do a complete cycle. We won't see the effects of that for a couple of month, but we anticipate that being very successful. We have implemented Lucity Asset Management Program to provide increased monitoring, tracking and reporting. That's a software system that Public Works used previously. We're using it now to track where we stand.



Here's how we measured success. Due to the additional staffing, we have cut our timeframe down to 21 days. Our goal is to get to 14 days on a turnaround time. Previous lots were mowed on an average of 3.5 times a year. Our goal this year is to get them at 8 times. We're excited about that. The number of call-in complaints about Land Bank lots has gone down significantly. We just aren't getting the complaints that we had previously been getting. We're excited about that.

Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrator, asked can you remind the Commission where we were at a year ago or even two years ago just on rounds for the parks. **Mr. Rogers** said absolutely. Two years ago we were mowing lots, Public Works was mowing lots, the Street Department was mowing lots and we weren't communicating. No one knew what each was doing. We knew we had a lot of lots. There are about 6,000 lots that were being mowed and we weren't sure who was mowing them and whatnot so we all sat down and worked through the plan to put all of our resources into one basket and to keep a level of communication and that's where we are now.

Our turnaround time for the lots previously, the last two years, was 60 days and now we're down to 21 so that's the big change that we've noticed. I think our residents are noticing that as well.



In 2016, a total of 613, 14-day abatements were sent to the QRTT Team. So far this year we have done 640 abatements; 161 of those required debris removals in addition to just mowing. I'll show you some pictures of those here in a minute. The QRTT Team averages 15-18 lots a day. They are out constantly. Those guys are working their tails off. I'm very appreciative of them.

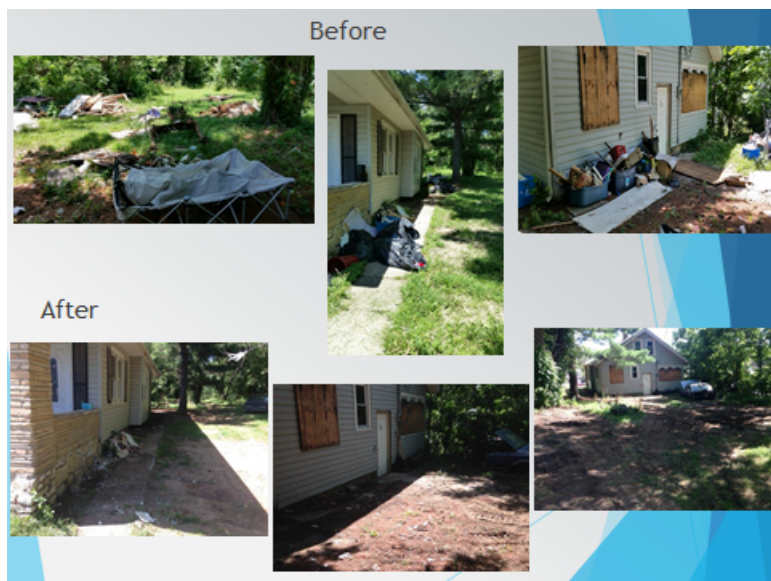
Ms. Sieban said I'm going to hop in here again, Commission. This is a huge change for our staff. Last year, that is just total that was sent over for the whole year. Six hundred forty is what we've done year-to-date and a lot of that is change in process, right, that we were working on with NRC.

Back on February 1st they transitioned to not giving a courtesy notice, going directly to a 14-day abatement, giving people two weeks to become good neighbors and this is the result of that. What's amazing is we were out at 8 weeks a year ago on this and we're at 21 days. Doubling the volume, this is a lot of efficiency and hard work on the part of the Parks team to make this happen.

Mr. Rogers said absolutely, thank you Melissa. Obviously, I'm not a one man show. We're a team and when we combined our resources we combined a team. Part of that team is to my right, Jack Webb, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation. He's kind of overseeing this project and has been the catalyst. Helping him is Kristen Love. She's been very supportive and very instrumental in making this a success so thank you guys.



Here's the abatement that I was talking about before and after pictures. I know the lighting is kind of off but there are a lot less weeds there. Much more presentable and more curb appeal there.



Here's some more where they had to go in and clean out trash and just make the place look nicer. Those guys have done a great, great job.

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Mowing Requirements	Responsible Party	Mowing Area	Frequency
Right of Way	Street Department	250 acres	Bi-Monthly
Code Violation Lots	Parks Department	600-800 lots	As needed
UG Buildings	Contractor	25-30 locations	Once a week
Parks Facilities	Contractor & Parks	54 locations 2700 Acres	Every 7-9 days
Cemeteries	Contractor & Parks	14 locations 105 Acres	Bi-Monthly
Ball Fields	Contractor	23 fields 40 acres	(13) 2 times a week (10) 1 time a week
Medians	Contractor	26 miles	Every 7-9 days
Land Bank Lots	Contractor & Parks	2400 lots	6-8 times a year

This is the turnaround time in frequency. I've showed this slide to you guys a couple different times so you've seen it before, but it's an updated of the turnaround time and response time that we are getting to each of those individual lots.

Commissioner Philbrook said instead of your whole report, could you just send me that one page. **Mr. Rogers** asked this page. Absolutely! Are there any other questions? **Chairman Bynum** asked why don't you just send it to the whole committee. **Mr. Rogers** said okay, perfect.

Chairman Bynum asked are there are any other questions for Mr. Rogers or anybody else on the team.

Commissioner Markley said it's not really a question, but I would just say hopefully other commissioners are having the same experience, but I am getting less calls as well so I am deeply appreciative because we used to get a lot of the same calls that would come downtown asking for the mowing. It's nice not to have to pester you about it and it's nice not to get them myself. I just really appreciate all of your work and this is exciting.

Commissioner Philbrook said I'm also not getting the negative feedback that I would have been through my community activities group. They're pretty forthcoming in letting me know if there's an area that really needs attention whether it's a lot or a neighbor or whatever it is. I have

to thank them for being proactive because without them, I'm not going to know whether it's a lot that we own or if it's somebody else's lot and they usually know. They usually know if it's something we own or somebody else is just not taking care of something.

I will tell you that we also still have people in the community that are mowing their next door house even though it doesn't belong to them because they don't want it to look like it does. I just thought I would mention that. Kudos to those people that don't make their neighbor mad and get in trouble. That's all I have to say, but thank you for your hard work and we really do appreciate your restructuring.

Commissioner Johnson said I'd also add that in just driving down some of the main thoroughfares in District Four, I was sharing with a group the other day about the fact that we've put money into the SOAR initiative and I've seen houses going down but more as equally as important I've seen the lots being mowed and trimmed. I would add that you convey to our contractors the importance of consistency in how we mow our lots, and particularly our parks. I'm talking about making sure that the sidewalks are trimmed and neatly manicured there. We just need to make sure that we're consistent from park to park. I noticed some parks looks like they look a little bit cleaner than others in my district, and so I would ask that would reiterate the importance of being consistent with that. I can see that they're getting to it a lot quicker. I can see that they are trimming, but I just want to make sure that the consistency and our quality assurance is kept up.

Chairman Bynum said well we appreciate this. This is an update only and it's very much appreciated.

Action: For information only.

Adjourn

Chairman Bynum adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

tpl