



# Transportation & Public Works Special Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2018  
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
SeaTac City Hall – Riverton Room 128

Commenced: 4:03 PM  
Adjourn: 5:00 PM

<u>Councilmembers:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Peter Kwon, Chair	X	
Rick Forschler	X	
Pam Fernald	X	

Other Council members present: Joel Wachtel; Clyde Hill

Staff Coordinators: Will Appleton, Public Works Director; Florendo Cabudol, City Engineer  
 Other Staff Members Present: Mark Johnsen, Sr. Assistant City Attorney  
 Recology Staff Present: Kevin Kelly, General Manager; Quinn Apuzzo, Recology CleanScapes  
 Waste Zero Manager  
 Member of the Press

ITEM	TOPIC	PROCESS	Who
1	Call to order		
2	Public Comment	No public comments made	
3	Recology China Sword Issue	<p>Action</p> <p>The meeting was convened at 4:03pm by Committee Chair Peter Kwon. There was no public comment</p> <p>Chair Kwon open the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance and introduced the topic to be discussed, “the impact of the China Sword Policy on our Solid Waste contractor, Recology CleanScapes. Representatives for Recology CleanScapes were present to answer questions from the committee.</p> <p>Mr. Appleton provided a brief overview of why the topic is before the committee: To discuss the impacts of the China National Sword Policy (a policy put into place by the Chinese</p>	

		<p>Government reducing the acceptable level of contamination within recyclable commodities - aluminum, plastics, mixed paper, etc. - allowed into the country), on the City's Solid Waste and Recycling contractor, Recology CleanScapes. Proposed mitigation measures intended to provide relief to Recology CleanScapes were discussed.</p> <p>The committee asked that all options be considered with respect to providing Recology with "relief". The committee recognized that Recology is doing a good job for the City and it's residents and is open to finding a way to keep Recology viable in this market, up to and including the possibility of a temporary surcharge on solid waste services.</p> <p>CM Kwon pointed out that the US is a minimum of 5-years out from being able to handle it's own waste if investments were to be made today.</p> <p>CM Forschler acknowledged the problem faced by Recology and emphasized that he would like to see a long term solution that involves more automation to reduce the cost of sorting associated with recyclables. CM Forschler noted that a shorter term solution is needed in the interim and would like to see our contractor stay viable thru this difficult cycle.</p> <p>Recology response to CM Forschler: Company is currently looking into ways of improving automation and has been exploring what has been done around the county. Recology believes there are capital improvements that can be made to help reduce their costs.</p> <p>CM Fernald expressed concern about any cost increases for our residents, especially our most financially vulnerable populations. While acknowledging that a surcharge may be</p>		
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		<p>need, CM Fernald asked that low income residents not be subject to any increases. CM Fernald also stressed that education and outreach should be used to the maximum extent practicable to help address the contamination of recyclables. Also, any surcharge must be sunset or limited.</p> <p>CM Wachtel expressed his desire to ensure that Recology is appropriately reciprocates with respect to any relief the City provides to their business, recognizing the Recology is a private business.</p> <p>It was noted that approximately 4700 households in the City of SeaTac recycle.</p> <p>CM Hill asked if incineration has been considered, specifically to allow for power generation. Recology noted that this is precluded by both the King County solid waste comprehensive plan and the fact that material would need to be hauled to Eastern Washington.</p> <p>It was noted that if no relief is provided to Recology they will need to strictly implement the terms of the contract, which will result in a much higher rejection rate of recycle bins having contamination.</p> <p><u>Guidance from the Committee included:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Look at all options available to help Recology weather the storm</li><li>• Provide outreach to our stakeholders and gather feedback (residents and business)</li><li>• Any surcharges would have to be sunset</li><li>• Explore ways that Recology can provide additional benefit to the City</li></ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to coordinate with other cities/entities served by Recology to identify the most equitable, defensible and acceptable path forward.</li></ul>		
8	Adjourn	Chair adjourns meeting		