

# Metro

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Metro

## Minutes

Thursday, March 10, 2022

10:30 AM

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or  
888-475-4499 (toll free)

**Council work session**

**10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Peterson called the Metro Council Meeting to order at 10:30am

Present: Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal Councilor Duncan Hwang, Councilor Stacy, Councilor Craddick.

**Work Session Topics:**

10:35 Solid Waste Forecast - An Overview and Update

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)  
[Attachment A](#)

**Council President Peterson** introduced Roy Brower [he/him], Director of WPES, and Joel Sherman [he/him] to present the Solid Waste Forecast.

Roy provided a brief introduction for the Solid Waste Update which: identifies trends in solid waste, predicts tonnage amounts, and informs WPES's fee-making process. This particular update also covered newer trends created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff pulled up the [*Solid Waste Forecast: An Overview Powerpoint Presentation*] to present to Council.

Joel provided a high-level summary of the WPES solid waste forecast, how the forecast is created, its objectives, and revenue generated.

*Council Discussion*

**Councilor Gonzalez** asked for more information about how fees are determined

**President Peterson** echoed Councilor Gonzalez's request

for more specificity, especially regarding the term “Revenue we’ll need,” found on the “Anatomy of a Price” slide. Staff explained that these slides are meant to provide a basic overview and would not go into more detail.

**Councilor Craddick** also expressed her surprise at the slide’s simplicity, and asked about how WPES is able to determine how much funding they will require any given year.

**President Peterson** asked COO to schedule more time to discuss the policy implications of fee setting.

**Councilor Rosenthal** asked if population growth or decline projections are applied as a standard rate of increase to WPES’s waste management forecasts.

Joel explained that population changes are very useful for predicting long-term waste trends, but not for short-term projections.

**Councilor Rosenthal** also asked how increasing fuel prices may affect WPES’s cost projections.

Joel suspects that it may make recycling cheaper, but short-term increases in fuel prices will not have a significant effect. Dennis added that inflation is a factor in WPES’s modeling for both dry and wet waste, but would need to trigger a recession to significantly impact their projections, which has not occurred. This forecast was completed before the war in Ukraine began, and that will need to be included in future forecasts.

**Councilor Craddick** asked about Metro’s new business food waste collection program, and how it would affect WPES’s forecasts. She and **President Peterson** also reiterated their desire to hear directly from WPES about their upcoming fall forecast. Finally, she asked why Covanta still receives a

small amount of tonnage, when Council decided to discontinue use of that service.

Joel explained that the collection, composting, and recovery of food waste would decrease overall garbage tonnage collected. Roy clarified that Covanta only receives irregular, highly specialized waste.

**Councilor Hwang** asked if the recent removal of COVID restrictions, and subsequent increase in public events and economic activity, are accounted for in WPES's forecasts. Staff explained that such factors are not explicitly included in WPES's waste collection forecasts. However, they are factored into their macro-economic projections, which help inform the waste collection forecasts.

**President Peterson** asked how this year's tonnage collection compares to past years, especially pre-pandemic, and how that has affected fee setting.

COO Marissa explained that discussion on the topic of fee setting was scheduled for 3/31, and they would receive additional information then.

**Councilor Craddick** asked how illegal dumping affects the forecast, and if WPES records the amount they find. Joel explained that it is not explicitly included in the forecast. Roy added that though the frequency of illegal dumping has increased, the amount is very small, about 100 tons, compared to tonnage collected, around 1.5 million tons.

**Councilor Gonzalez** answered presenters' questions for Council, expressed his gratitude for the presenters' work, and that he looked forward to future discussions around fee setting.

**Councilor Rosenthal** asked what margin of error the

forecast used.

Joel clarified that their forecast, on average, had a margin of error around 5.5%.

### 11:20 Chief Operating Officer Communication

**COO Marissa Madrigal** provided an update on the following events or items:

- Kronos 8 is back online, and Metro's IS and Finance teams handled timekeeping in the interim. She thanked: Nancy Summerville, Jeff Andrews, Amy Parilla, Erica Chamberlain, Midori Grau, and Vanessa Hill for all of the extra work they took on to make sure Metro employees were paid accurately and on time.
- Supportive Housing Services recently updated its progress page to add a dashboard, and you can find information about SHS's recent progress.

**President Peterson** reiterated her gratitude to those who worked on the dashboard.

**Councilor Gonzalez** asked about the specific wording used in the dashboard

COO Marissa said she would get more information from staff and would report back at a later date.

**Councilor Nolan** asked where the people who use SHS's services come from and their previous housing circumstances.

COO Marissa explained that SHS is working with local agencies to gather this type of information.

**Councilor Craddick** echoed Councilor Nolan's request for more specific information about people using SHS so resources can be better targeted at those with the most need.

**Councilor Hwang** asked where "Other Funding" comes from. He also remarked that Metro only

provides 10% of total funds, and asked if that would increase over time.

COO Marissa explained that jurisdictions who pay into the program pull funds from various sources, the “Other” category is meant to keep from confusing the public, and the information would become more detailed over time. She added that Metro planned to increase their funding for this project in the future.

**11:25 Councilor Communication**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- **Councilor Rosenthal** updated Council about the opening of the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts.
- **Councilor Craddick** updated Council on her and President Peterson’s meeting with Blue Lake homeowners.
- **Councilor Gonzalez** updated Council on a drop-in dinner he and Policy Advisor Victor Sin hosted at Home Plate, for youths experiencing housing instability.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 11:56

Respectfully submitted,

Sermad Mohamad, Legislative Assistant