



**Public Works Committee
Meeting Summary**

Date: Tues. Aug. 7, 2007

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Room 391

Members Present: Nevitt, Lehmann, López

Members Absent: Brown, Johnson

Others Present: Robb

1. Mayor's Appointments to Metro Wastewater Reclamation District Board

Committee Action

The Committee approved the Mayor's appointment and re-appointments to the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District Board.

Summary of Discussion

The Mayor is proposing to re-appoint ten members to the Board for terms expiring on June 30, 2009, and the Committee agreed:

Celia VanDerloop	Rob Duncanson
Maria Rose	Sam Atwood
Stephen Draper	Roman Garcia
Reza Kazemian	Margaret Medellin
Robert Monks	Victor Padilla

The Mayor is proposing to appoint Alan Sorrel as a new appointee with a term expiring on June 30, 2009, and the Committee agreed. Mr. Sorrel has worked for the Denver Department of Public Works for 27 years, and he is familiar with the operations of Metro Wastewater. This regional district collects and treats the wastewater generated in most of the metro area jurisdictions.

The Board was originally created with 1 member per 25,000 population from each member jurisdiction, and the total number of board members has grown. Between 2009 and 2011, the number will be reduced to 33 and remain there. Denver currently has 22 members; the number will be reduced to 10 or 11.

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2. Council's Appointment to Urban Drainage & Flood Control District Board

Committee Action

The Committee approved the appointment by Council of Councilman Chris Nevitt to the Urban Drainage & Flood Control District Board.

Summary of Discussion

Council makes three appointments to this Board, and currently serving are Councilwomen Johnson, Lehmann and Boigon. Councilwoman Boigon has requested a replacement to complete her term through January 31, 2009. Council President Hancock would like to appoint Councilman Nevitt.

3. Amend Managers Rules & Regulations - Street Occupancy Permits

Rob Duncanson, Public Works, presented proposed changes to the Manager of Public Works Rules & Regulations regarding street occupancy permits issued for closure of sidewalk or traffic lanes. This proposal is still under discussion, and the Manager will hold a public hearing before adoption. This is an information item; no council action is required.

Design Engineering issues 27,000 permits annually, 16,000 of which are for street occupancy. It has been about six years since any changes were made to this permit. The purpose of street occupancy permit fees is to have streets blocked for as little time as possible.

- a. Increase permit fees for closure of traffic lanes during construction projects
 - Increase from 25 cents to 45 cents per foot per day on arterials and collectors.
 - Applies to traffic lanes, not to parking.
 - Provides a financial incentive for contractors to be fast and efficient when they need to occupy the street.
 - Includes dumpsters on arterials/collectors (no increase on residential streets).
 - Dumpsters are permitted for 180 days in a 12-month period.
- b. Incentive for covered pedestrian walkways during construction
 - Street occupancy fees are currently discounted 90% if a covered walkway is provided, which is the safe practice.
 - The proposal is to put that incentive in writing and formally adopt it.

4. Parking Violation Fine Structure

Right-of-Way Enforcement reviewed the current parking violation fine structure and made three recommendations for changes. Fines are the purview of the presiding judge, and the recommendations have been reviewed with him. The proposals will be presented to the Parking Commission and the Parking Policy Committee for additional input before the judge makes a final decision.

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Recommendation 1:

- Increase all overtime fines from \$20 to \$25 (private sector averages \$35; Boulder is at \$25).
- Last increase was from \$15 to \$20, September 2001.
- Effective September 2007.
- Increased revenue for 2008 would be approximately \$2 million, based on number of citations in 2006.

Recommendation 2:

- Create a tiered ticket for street sweeping and tow-away zone fines:
 - 1st offense = \$25
 - all subsequent offences within a calendar year = \$50
- Increases first sweeping violations from \$20 to \$25.
- Decreases first tow-away zone violations from \$60 to \$25.
- Tiered fines are one of the industry's "best practices".
- This is not projected to result in increased revenue.
- General towing fines would become effective in early winter 2008; street sweeping fines would become effective in April.

Recommendation 3:

- Increase the fine for parking in a handicap-reserved space from \$100 to \$150.
- Effective September 2007.

General comments:

- We need an automatic reminder of street sweeping days.
- Metermaid.com is a private entity that will send email reminders.
- In 2006, parking meter revenue was \$8.4 million; parking fine revenue was \$15.2 million.

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s:committees/2006-2007/public works/agenda