



# City of Grand Prairie

City Hall  
300 W. Main Street  
Grand Prairie, Texas

## Meeting Agenda

### Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee

Monday, December 7, 2020

4:00 PM

Video Conference

Due to the imminent threat to public health and safety arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting of the Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee will be held via video conference. Members of the public may participate in the meeting remotely by webinar or telephone through the following:

#### Zoom Webinar

When: Dec 7, 2020 04:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: City of Grand Prairie - PSHE Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://gptx.zoom.us/j/95089681793?pwd=M2JoNWpLSFdJT1ZOYUoxMEJMcWhEdz09>

Passcode: 015710

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13462487799,,95089681793#,,,,,0#,,015710# or

+14086380968,,95089681793#,,,,,0#,,015710#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or

+1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 Webinar ID: 950 8968 1793

Passcode: 015710

International numbers available: <https://gptx.zoom.us/u/ab9ILhLgLC>

All meeting participants will automatically be muted until it is their turn to speak. To be recognized to speak, use the "raise hand" feature in the Zoom meeting platform. Or, if you are joining by phone, you may press \*9 to raise your hand. A maximum five (5) minutes is permitted per speaker. After speaking, remute your phone by pressing \*6.

#### Call to Order

#### Agenda Items

*Citizens may speak for up to five minutes on any item on the agenda by following the instructions above.*

- 1      [20-10631](#)      Minutes from November 2, 2020 Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee Meeting  
**Attachments:** [PSHE 2020 11 02 Minutes.pdf](#)
- 2      [20-10630](#)      Solid Waste and Recycling Services Survey - Presented by Dr. Patricia Redfearn, Solid Waste and Recycling Manager
- 3      [20-10643](#)      Emergency Assistance Program Update - Presented by Andrew Fortune, Assistant to the City Manager

### Executive Session

*The Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee may conduct a closed session pursuant to Chapter 551, Subchapter D of the Government Code, V.T.C.A. to discuss the following:*

1. *Section 551.071 "Consultation with Attorney"*
2. *Section 551.072 "Deliberation Regarding Real Property"*
3. *Section 551.074 "Personnel Matters"*
4. *Section 551.087 "Deliberations Regarding Economic Development Negotiations"*

### Citizen Comments

### Adjournment

#### *Certification*

*In accordance with Chapter 551, Subchapter C of the Government Code, V.T.C.A. the Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee meeting agenda was prepared and posted on December 4, 2020.*

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*Mona Lisa Galicia, Deputy City Secretary*

*City Hall is wheelchair accessible. If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements, please call Mona Lisa Galicia at 972-237-8018 at least 24 hours in advance. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.*



Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 20-10631      **Version:** 1      **Name:** November 2, 2020 PSHE Minutes  
**Type:** Agenda Item      **Status:** Agenda Ready - Committee  
**File created:** 11/20/2020      **In control:** Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee  
**On agenda:** 12/7/2020      **Final action:**  
**Title:** Minutes from November 2, 2020 Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee Meeting  
**Sponsors:**  
**Indexes:**  
**Code sections:**  
**Attachments:** [PSHE 2020 11 02 Minutes.pdf](#)

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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**From**  
Lana Yancey

**Title**  
Minutes from November 2, 2020 Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee Meeting

**Presenter**  
Jeff Copeland, Chairman

**Recommended Action**  
Approve

**Analysis**  
Minutes Attached



**PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**November 2, 2020**

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The Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Copeland at 4:00 p.m. on November 2, 2020 at Grand Prairie City Hall, Council Briefing Room; 300 W. Main St., Grand Prairie, Texas.

**Attendees:**

Chairman Jeff Copeland and Committee Members Cole Humphreys and John Lopez were present. Staff members present: Deputy City Manager Steve Dye, City Attorney Megan Suarez, Judge Bryan Arnold, Director over Library and Communications & Marketing Amy Sprinkles, Director of Parks, Arts & Recreation Duane Strawn, Environmental Quality Manager Cindy Mendez, City Manager Assistant Andrew Fortune, Police Chief Daniel Scesney, Code Compliance Manager Steve Collins, Police Communications Manager Aubry Insko, Environmental Supervisor of Stormwater Programs Chandani Rana, and Recording Secretary Lana Yancey. Guest of Cindy Mendez, Dr. Kenneth Tran was also present.

**Consider Minutes of October 5, 2020**

Committee Member Cole Humphreys motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Committee Member John Lopez and Chairman Jeff Copeland in favor. Minutes passed as presented.

**Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for funding to the Tarrant County 9-1-1 District Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Assistance Program, in the amount of \$77,992 to purchase 9-1-1 related equipment, software, training and other allowable expenses.**

Communications Manager Aubry Insko briefed the committee on this item. Mrs. Insko needs the approval of this committee to accept funding in the amount of \$77,992 from Tarrant County 911 District. The committee was briefed at the last Public Safety, Health and Environmental Meeting about all the equipment, software and training the Tarrant County 911 District will provide to our 911 Communications Specialist and Center. Committee Member Humphreys motioned to approve this item and Chairman Copeland and Committee Member Lopez were in favor. This item was approved.

**Ordinance amending the FY 2020/2021 Red Light Safety Fund in the amount of \$550,635 for: the purchase 100 electronic ticket writers in the amount of \$337,875 from Tyler Technologies through their national Interlocal Purchasing Agreement with Sourcewell; the purchase of a traffic accident investigation laser scanner in the amount of \$131,103 and traffic accident laser scanner accessories in the amount of \$5,897 from Geomatic Resources, through an Interlocal Agreement with DIR; the replacement of speed detection LIDAR devices in the amount of \$26,000; the purchase of commercial vehicle weight scales and transport boxes, in the amount of 49,760; authorize the City Manager to execute the renewal options with aggregate price fluctuations of the lesser of up to \$50,000 or 25% of the original maximum price so long as sufficient funding is appropriated by the City Council to satisfy the City's obligation during the renewal terms**

Police Chief Daniel Scesney briefed the committee on this item. The first thing we are looking into purchasing is electronic ticket writers. That is in response to Covid-19. We have held out on buying these for a while because some of our officers like the more traditional way of handwriting a ticket. The electronic ticket writers are a safer and faster way to issue a citation to violators and we would like all our Officers and Detectives to have one. The ticket writer scans the barcode on a driver license or identification card and the data imports on the citation. We have eliminated the step to have the violator sign the citation because the municipal court will accept body worn camera as evidence. Secondly, we are looking to purchase Laser Scanners to use in the event of a fatality accident. The Laser Scanner can take pictures and document the scene, eliminating our Officers and the Fire Blocking Apparatus from being on the scene for an extended period of time. This is a safety precaution as well as saves time for our Officers and Fire Fighters. The last thing we are looking to purchase is replacements of the handheld LIDARS that our officers use to run radar. Regarding the electronic ticket writers, since information is electronically uploaded the municipal court doesn't have to manually enter the citation information which will cut down on overtime. The Red-Light Safety funds are specifically for traffic and roadway safety, so we can also use some of this money to illuminate street signs if we want too. These funds are one time use only, after the funds are used the account will be cancelled. We no longer have Red Light Cameras in Grand Prairie, although we do have license plate readers which is not used as an enforcement tool. No other questions on this item. Committee Member Humphreys motioned to approve this item and Chairman Copeland and Committee Member Lopez were in favor. This item was approved.

### **Discuss Donation Boxes**

Deputy City Manager Steve Dye briefed the committee on donation boxes and how they have been an issue for many departments in Grand Prairie. The Police Department, Code Compliance and the City Attorney's Office has progressively come up with some innovative solutions to implement more accountability to donation box operators. City Attorney Megan Suarez continued this discussion and explained up to this point we have sent out notices to box operators, property owners or the charities in which the box supports. We have aggressively been doing what is legally possible, but this is a heavily regulated area. A lot of these donation boxes have been placed on a property without the property owner's consent. Some of the property owner's do not have the means to tow the donation boxes or do not know they are able to do so when the donation box starts to have a lot of outside debris and rubbish around it. We would like to implement an annual permit process to give these property owners an avenue to use to help with situations like these. The permit would include a 24/7 contact person to notify of accumulating outside debris at their donation box. This will allow us to have enforcement action for the donation box operators and property owners. We are creating construction and location standards and presumptions to help prosecute in municipal court as efficiently as possible which will also include impoundment of boxes and tickets as an enforcement option. Chairman Copeland asked about the impoundment and hauling off the donation boxes. Daves Hi-Way Wrecker Service has been very helpful in towing the donation boxes off properties. It's not that we are anti donation box, but we want a proper level of accountability from the donation box operator or property owner. The permit will provide a high visible sticker to the donation box operator to place on the box for Code Compliance to know it is approved. Chief Scesney advised that a lot of these donation box operators or companies do not seek permission to place the box and take no responsibility for them. We generally do not know what they are doing with the donations, but we think that they may be resold at resale shops. We have identified over 128 donation box locations. One example of excessive donation boxes at one location is at Asia Times Square there are 11 boxes. We were in contact with donation box operators, but eventually they just stop contacting us back. In this case when one donation box operator received permission then a lot of other companies brought their donation boxes out and all are different operators. Chairman Copeland advised that this is priority for him, and he is ready to drop the hammer. He appreciates the work of everyone involved in this process. He would like to know, as of today the box operator must have a sticker and if they don't within 30 days, are we going to haul the box off. How do we

start hauling them off? Deputy City Manager Steve Dye advised this is going to be an ordinance revision. There have been some litigation issues, so this has taken time in which we have crawled, walked, ran to get to where we are. Over the past couple years, we have been going by these properties contacting the property owner to make sure they have given permission to the donation box operators to place a box on their property. If they haven't then we start the rigorous process of attempting to contact with the box operators. There is also a notification process to the responsible party and if they don't respond within 30 days, then we can haul it off. The ordinance revision allows the Code Compliance Officer to immediately see that the box does or does not have the permit sticker and if not, they can haul the box off. We are getting rid of leaving a message and waiting for them to get back with us. Regarding Daves Hi-Way Wrecker Service currently hauling boxes off, we are not paying them to do that. Daves Hi-Way Wrecker finds and bills the box operator directly to receive payment, but if we need to find money to pay Daves Hi-Way Wrecker, we can find the money. Daves Hi-Way Wrecker stores the box on their property. We anticipate at the beginning of the implementation of the new ordinance and permit process it will take time. Once we get everyone in compliance, it should be a simple process to have contacts for all donation box operators and be able to haul off if not in compliance. Chairman Copeland asked, if we start hauling the donation boxes off, will we have any liability issues? City Attorney Megan Suarez advised that we will not be liable, but we must give the donation box operator 10 days to respond and remove the box. Also, before hauling the donation boxes off we send a streets department crew out to clean up any debris that was left outside the box. Code Compliance has been dealing with this for the last 4 or 5 years and they have done a great job. The donation boxes that have permission by the property owners and keep the property clean, we are all for. As a property owner, they can throw the outside rubbish away if they feel like doing so. After this ordinance passes, even if the property owner has allowed the donation box to be there, they will also be responsible for how the area looks around it. We will have the ability to write citations to the property owner if they or the donation box operator aren't in compliance. First thing to do after the new ordinance passes is to educate the property owners and give them 30 days to be compliant and give them a copy of the ordinance. Even if the donation box operator has a permit, they can receive a citation for litter if they are not compliant. Committee Member Lopez wanted to make sure the donation box isn't broken or an eye sore and asked if that is part of the new ordinance. There is wording in the new ordinance that will require the boxes to have certain construction standards and code compliance restrictions. Committee Members and Chairman Copeland approve and are in favor of this item. No further discussion.

**Current Health, Wellness and Fitness Programs and New Initiatives - Presented by Steve Dye, Deputy City Manager / Chief Operating Officer, and Cindy Mendez, Environmental Quality Manager**

There were multiple presenters for this item beginning with Deputy City Manager Steve Dye and why this item came up. Committee Member Humphreys originally brought this item to light months ago and we had a great discussion about it regarding overall health of city employees and citizens even more now since COVID. We understand that the following ideas and options are not guaranteed to keep us healthy but will help. Environmental Manager Cindy Mendez continued this item regarding Community Health, Virtual and Specialty Programs. There are many programs already available, but a lot of people don't know where to look for them. Environmental really relies on the Dallas County Community Needs Assessment which tells us what people are dying of in Grand Prairie, what is going on in Grand Prairie and what educational things we need to focus on. We also focus on seasonal and emerging diseases. Our main program is Get Fit GP and we work with many departments within the city. People who sign up for this program receive a monthly email with events and specific information about what is happening in the city. We work with 21 community partners, such as Parkland and Methodist who educate, and come to the city to do screenings of all kinds. In 2014, Grand Prairie had the highest rate in the Dallas County of infant mortality, so we wanted to know what we could do to change that. We have mailed bilingual postcards and held educational fairs at Jefferson Event Center in which medical professionals attended.

This year we had a drive thru event and handed out educational items to everyone. Ultimately, we are driving people to our website to educate the public and city employees.

Duane Strawn briefed the committee on the Parks and Recreation part of this item. The use of parks and trails skyrocketed during the pandemic. Due to social distancing we put marks on the ground and signs up along the walking trails to remind people. We created many virtual events such as summer camps, yoga, 5k's, cooking, photo contests, total body workouts, and social clubs in order to engage our citizens through all of this. On the fitness side, we reconfigured and moved gym equipment at the recreation centers since we were still on a capacity basis and we were able to accommodate many citizens. We modified our aquatics protocols and people had to register to swim at The Epic. Our outdoor pickle ball and Friendship Park was renovated. We provided the facilities and the state and staff provided the protocols. On the social side, some of our staff volunteered with United Charities and other food drives in the city. The Epic was transformed into Camp COVID, a day care for our essential employees who had to work throughout the pandemic and needed childcare. As we have evolved during COVID we will have a few drive thru events like Prairie Lights. Everything is as touchless as we can make it. Regarding Golf, we are now doing double occupancy in golf carts, but we did add a plexiglass divider to protect our golfers. The Summit has had a few drive thru events and we have tried to engage members since they are missing the physical and social side of things. Chairman Copeland commended how employees did at the Forest of Fear event in October. There was a huge turnout with a line of cars to highway 360, he inquired if the police were out there directing traffic. The Parks Department opted to not call the police to come out for traffic control on this event. We do not advertise for Forest of Fear, because there is always such a huge turnout, but in the future, we will work with the police department for traffic control in case we have the same turnout. We will start using the same protocol for Forest of Fear as we do for Prairie Lights, and at a certain time we will close the line, because we want everyone that is paying to go to Forest of Fear be able to enjoy it. Chairman Copeland loves that answer and agrees for this event to go on organically and without the City's help, but if police are needed for traffic control, we will get them out. This year there were at least a couple thousand cars a night at Forest of Fear and the campgrounds were full as well.

Amy Sprinkles briefed the committee on the Library events in the city. All their events went virtual as soon as COVID hit. There is a new class coming up on tea and all summer long we had a grief and support class along with exercise and dance classes all virtually. We also had a lot of books come out about illness, and pandemics and how to teach parents to talk to their kids about how to deal with it. We offer curbside pickup when people check out a book online. We also have a lot of mental health resources on our website and have had over 700 virtual classes this summer. After the first of the year we will create and post a mental health awareness video online, which will include where to find all these resources.

Lisa Norris from Human Resources briefed the committee on what they have been doing for health and wellness for our employees. Monthly campaigns and events go on all year and are available online. We have done naturally slim virtually and a lot of employees have participated in that. We focus a lot of our events for employees that work night shifts so they can participate as well. We do news articles in the Prairie Pulse to keep employees informed. We have a program called Peer Fit which gives employees tokens to use for different work out classes at various gyms virtually or across the metroplex where employees live. Human Resources also put a tobacco attestation in place that is virtual, and we continue to utilize. If an employee is a tobacco user and has used within the last 90 days, there is a surcharge and the employee can participate in a program that will enable them to have the surcharge removed if they complete the program. Council Member Humphreys asked, are there better health care prices if employees participate in these programs? Several years ago we gave "dollars" to employees who participated in screenings, but the employee must make the personal decision to change. Unfortunately, it was costing the city a lot to do that specific program, and the health of the employees wasn't improving. What we try to focus on is education and benefits of being healthy for their family long term. Preventative prescriptions are built into health care plans at 100% covered. Blue Cross Blue Shield uses

a Well-on-Target portal to help employees make and reach wellness goals. We also use the following programs throughout the year, Goose Chase app for virtual scavenger hunts to earn prizes, Kannact for diabetes support directly with a Doctor, Surgery Plus which helps reduce rates on surgeries and if the employee has met their deductible it is virtually free, and Airrosti which is a soft tissue manipulation and reduces surgeries overall. The fire department provided flu shots for our employees. While a lot of our employees were working at home this year, we did Safety Selfies relating to Covid and wearing a mask and sent emails to all employees called Flu Fact Friday to engage our employee family.

Chief Daniel Scesney briefed the committee on Police wellness initiatives which is a part of our culture. All our events are based under our four pillars of our Grand Prairie Police Department Fit Force which is Spiritual, Physical, Emotional and Financial Wellness. Internally we believe that we need to be healthy to help our community. We have an annual fitness test, a first responder resiliency program which provides our employees a license psychologist to talk to, a financial planning class with a certified financial advisor, and we have a crisis support team and a peer support team. Additionally, we have a Blue Courage class that helps our officers reset their clock and helps them not to feel burnt out, and a behind the badge program which involves our spouses and significant others. Our Cope program is a new initiative to help Officers identify citizens in the community dealing with a mental health emergency. This program flags the name, license plate and address of individuals dealing with mental illness to help deal with those situations. Our mental health professionals then reach out to those individuals to make sure they have the resources they need. We also have a medication disposal center in the lobby of our public safety building which is in partnership with the DEA. Chairman Copeland thanked everyone for this presentation and for the hard work of putting all these initiatives in action with our employees and citizens of Grand Prairie. Deputy City Manager Steve Dye advised this is the first time all these fitness and wellness initiatives have been written in the same place so now this is a living document that we can use in the future to add and subtract from. No further discussion.

#### **Emergency Assistance Program Update - Presented by Andrew Fortune, Assistant to the City Manager**

Andrew Fortune briefed the committee on this item and advised that we are on track to be able to help all our remaining families through the holidays. As of October 23<sup>rd</sup>, we are looking to spend \$60,000 per month but things are changing daily with COVID. We will take this month by month and see if we can continue with emergency funding. Is there any specific numbers or data that the committee members would like us to bring in next month? Committee Member Lopez request the percentage of denied families. Chairman Copeland asked how often you meet with Grand Prairie United Charities. Andrew meets with Patti and Brenda weekly or every other week and he also sits on the board of Grand Prairie United Charities. Chairman Copeland asked if we should put a monthly budget in place? This was discussed in length and Committee Members agreed to put a \$60,000 per month budget in place. They also agreed that if GPUC must go over that monthly budget a little that is fine but asked if they could try to stay close to the allotted amount. The Committee Members also would like to know when and why GPUC had to go over the budget. We want this money to last as long as possible because we don't know if we will get more money to distribute for emergency funding. Andrew advised he would bring this back to GPUC board of directors and advised that this shouldn't be a problem. There was no further discussion on this item.

#### **Gas Well Ordinance Updates - Presented by Cindy Mendez, Environmental Quality Manager**

Environmental Quality Manager Cindy Mendez briefed the committee on this item but also mentioned a virtual egret community meeting if anyone wanted to be included in that regarding our last meeting. Also, Parkland Clinic in Grand Prairie will have free flu vaccinations soon, and people are encouraged to go to that. Ms. Mendez Introduced Chandani Rana of Environmental Services who is our storm water and gas well supervisor, and Kenneth Tram who is our 3<sup>rd</sup> party



gas well inspector. Our gas well ordinance was adopted from Fort Worth, but we have made it our own throughout the years. As of now we have 183 permitted gas wells, 151 gas wells drilled and 142 gas wells in production. Since gas well production in Grand Prairie there have been 9 wells plugged and 8 pad sites removed. There are multiple reasons why these pad sites were abandoned which is happening throughout the city not in one specific area. The reason why we are looking at this ordinance is because Trammel Crow wanted to know if they were able to build over a gas well, to which we found out was not a good idea. We are seeing a lot of expansion and redevelopment near our existing pad sites. Currently there is an apartment complex that is 3 quarters around an existing gas well pad site, so we have been meeting with the Fire Department and we now have a no build easement which protects encroachment. This is how valuable land is right now. There have been situations where gas well companies are selling land back to people without bringing the land back to its originally state. When land is sold back there is an ASTM standard in which companies seem to not be concerned with, which raises an environmental quality concern to private development in the future. The three main things we are looking at changing in the ordinance is timelines for new pad site drilling, reclamation plans and postproduction inspections. Currently the timeline of 1<sup>st</sup> drill must be done within 180 days, if not they have to go before city council because there isn't a variance to get an additional 180 days to drill. We are asking for an administrative variance to allow an additional 180 days without council permission, given the current market on gas prices. Currently, when you abandon a well you must remove all equipment, all the foundations, fill in all holes and depressions and place a permanent abandonment marker so we know where a well is 20 years from now. What we would like to do is add reclamation plans on how they are going to restore the land back to its natural state so that future landowners know what is on their land. The abandonment process is overlooked by the Texas Railroad Commission, who regulates the exploration, production, and transportation of oil and natural gas in Texas. The Railroad Commission is worried about buying land getting the resources from the land and then reselling it back to someone and not worried about the next person to own or build on it. Adding the reclamation plans for abandoning a well will help regulate the land status after the gas well drilling is done. In the past we have found buried equipment that the gas drillers left behind instead of disposing of it properly. The city holds on to escrow money until these companies meet our requirements and pass a final inspection. This land is owned by corporations or private owners, not the city, so future owners may not know the health hazards of building on this land. House Bill 40 requires the gas well companies to bring the land back to its original status. Postproduction Inspections are an environmental investigation. Gas Well pad sites are not zoned so they can be anywhere. When things get zoned, they must go before city council, and they would have hours long discussions and possible protesters but ultimately, we couldn't stop the gas wells from going in. During the drilling process we require them to monitor leak detections, air quality, noise studies and at the end they just plug the gas well and say Goodbye. With Postproduction inspections we are completing the loop and understanding what the future is. There is a new cost increase to these new ordinance updates but not much. We have been looking into this new ordinance revision for a year now and the area cities have not gone this far into the postproduction inspections. Committee Member Lopez asked, later will we look at what we are going to do with economic development. Ms. Mendez advised that we have already been receiving calls for a while from companies wanting to build near pad sites. We are putting these new revisions in place for the future landowners, since this was rural land before gas well drilling started. We want future development to be aligned with the city's values and to keep citizens safe. Chairman Copeland's frustration is with us being able to identify that the property is highly contaminated but now what? With this new ordinance revision, it will help with that and require the gas well operators to remove all contaminated equipment off the land. Other rural cities in this area haven't investigated the postproduction of gas wells. Grand Prairie is trying to be ahead of the curve on postproduction of gas wells, due to apartment complexes and other development wanting to go in. As we move forward, we can add other revisions as we learn more about what other cities are doing and what we learn. No further discussion.

**21st Quarterly Judicial Report**

This item was moved up at the approval of Chairman Copeland. Judge Bryan Arnold briefed the committee on this item. This update covers July, August and September judicial activity report. The arraignments, for example the misdemeanor cases show 140 in July but that doesn't mean that we had that many people in jail, one person could have had multiple charges. The ticket count as of now compared to this time last year is still down but it is trending back up. Chief Scesney advised that citations are down by 35%. Chairman Copeland asked if Steve Dye could email this information to the Committee Members and Chairman along with the previous quarters of the year for all categories. Chairman Copeland also pointed out, the low number of tickets shows good intent on our city and is a positive thing that citizens should know about. Trials by Jury are still at zero because we are not allowed to have jury trials until at least February. Our prosecutors are doing a great job to try and keep things out of the court room. There are 50 trials on tap including 22 defendants as of now, whenever we can have trials again. We can do the trials by judge because there isn't a jury. Officers write "served & badge number" on the citation so that the court is aware that the violator knows about the citation. For the first four months after COVID we didn't sign any warrants but as of July we started up again. Chairman Copeland asked if the Municipal Court has had any layoffs during the months of light load in the court. Judge Arnold advised we have not had any layoffs. Deputy City Manager Steve Dye advised that one of the positions from the court moved to the City Manager's Office. The court also has a few frozen positions, until at least the first of 2021. We do not want to have any layoffs, but we don't know how long the COVID pandemic will go on. Once the economy is on the upturn we will go back and look at the frozen positions and see if we really need those positions filled after having them empty for a year. City Attorney Megan Suarez advised that the Prosecutors haven't missed a beat once COVID hit and have been doing pretrial and negotiations via zoom, phone and email. People have been appreciative of this and seemed to be more willing to pay their tickets. Emergency Protective Orders didn't have a jump in numbers when kids went back to school and have been on the decline over the last three months. Our Indigent Hearings are hearings that we have, because the law says that if someone is unable to pay a ticket, they can request community service. Indigent Hearings have always been held on Mondays and overseen by Judge Mazur, in this quarter people have been able to submit paperwork and assigned community service. Chairman Copeland suggested that Amy Sprinkles add this to the Mayor's Message or the State of the City for our citizens to know what is going on behind the scenes.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.**

**Executive Session**

There was no executive session.

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Jeff Copland, Chairman



Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 20-10630      **Version:** 1      **Name:** Solid Waste and Recycling Services Survey  
**Type:** Presentation      **Status:** Agenda Ready - Committee  
**File created:** 11/20/2020      **In control:** Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee  
**On agenda:** 12/7/2020      **Final action:**  
**Title:** Solid Waste and Recycling Services Survey - Presented by Dr. Patricia Redfearn, Solid Waste and Recycling Manager

**Sponsors:**

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:**

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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**Title**  
Solid Waste and Recycling Services Survey - Presented by Dr. Patricia Redfearn, Solid Waste and Recycling Manager



Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 20-10643      **Version:** 1      **Name:** Emergency Assistance Program Update  
**Type:** Presentation      **Status:** Agenda Ready - Committee  
**File created:** 11/30/2020      **In control:** Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee  
**On agenda:** 12/7/2020      **Final action:**  
**Title:** Emergency Assistance Program Update - Presented by Andrew Fortune, Assistant to the City Manager  
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Title  
Emergency Assistance Program Update - Presented by Andrew Fortune, Assistant to the City Manager