

Item 24-0341: Resolution #4-R-24 Sustainable Use of Pesticides

Common Council

Wed, Jun 19, 2024 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 27:30

So, we'll move on now to public participation. At each meeting, the Common Council reserves 30 minutes for members of the public to express their views on items which appear on our agenda, we have three who signed up to speak but I know we've got a few more. So, we'll get through the list of folks who signed up and then we will check and make sure that we haven't missed anybody. We ask that you please. When I call your name, approach the microphone, state your name and address or your affiliation for the record. And we ask that you keep your comments concise and to the point of taking into consideration comments that have been made before you. We also ask that you limit your comments to five minutes or less again on items that appear on the agenda. And we will as always help you keep time. So, with that, we'll get started.

[Cut]

Mayor Jake Woodford 37:25

Next is Israel Del Toro.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 37:26

Israel Del Toro, [XXXXX] here to speak on Parks and Rec item 24-0341 sustainable use of pesticide resolution. I want to express my sincere thanks to the Parks and Rec committee and Director Gazza for taking the time to meticulously consider this resolution. To address the mayor's concern in this memo to comm—and to the committee, regarding the preparation of resolutions, I would like to say that while it is recommended that resolutions go through staff prior to being submitted, as an author, I felt that this was no longer an option for me. My goal tonight is to have a continued public discussion on an important environmental issue that may not have been taken seriously when working exclusively with the administration.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 38:16

I understand that the original form of the resolution was difficult to support for a wide array of wide array of reasons discussed in detail in committee. But I also want to make note of various problems as to how this resolution was handled by the mayor. The 126-page report was largely padded with superfluous and often tangentially related information. The majority of the detailed research by staff was an amalgamation of previously gathered documents or scanned copies of pesticide levels with no clear justification or relevance to any of the action items on the resolution. Further, I'm disappointed that the mayor's comments to Council to the Council and the resolutions authors have shown an increasing tendency to be belittling and add little to no substance.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 39:01

This report fails to address any of the original action items proposed in the therefore clauses of the unamended resolution. Yes, the report was 126 pages, but the effort by the mayor to synthesize, articulate an argument, and respond to the resolution was severely lacking. To me this signals the administration's lack of interest and willingness to address environmental and sustainability issues brought forward by city legislators.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 39:26

So where does this leave you tonight? The original resolution language has been scrapped and replaced with something more palatable for the Council. And this is fine. It's how change ultimately happens—baby steps. I prefer to leap, but baby steps it is.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 39:42

I hope that a bold alder can push this resolution a little further tonight and ask for one more actionable change specifically restoring the fourth action item in the unamended resolution: "Therefore, let it be further resolved that the city will publicly release information regarding the chemical pesticides used by the city" and I would add "Using the new and updated city website by the end of 2024." In addition—this edition comes from a clear need identified in the committee's meeting, that there is an obvious lack of transparency and information accessibility.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 40:15

The community deserves to know what chemicals are being used in are shaped shared public spaces, at what frequency and what potential health risks exist when such chemicals are applied. This is important information that should be shared with the Appleton—with Appleton and not simply stored in the archives of the Parks and Rec committee meetings.

Israel Del Toro (Former Alderperson - District 4) 40:35

No one is claiming that the city staff is applying inappropriately or illegally (in fact, we applaud all the hard work that you do), just that there is a gap in communication and dissemination of information to the constituency. I ask that the Council fixes this tonight and votes to support the amended resolution. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 40:57

Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on an item that appears on the agenda? Please come forward. Your name and address for the record, please.

Relena Ribbons (Assistant Professor of Geosciences - Lawrence University) 41:03

Hello, Relena Ribbons [XXXXX]. So, thank you for the memo. So that contained an abundance of information on things that I think people were really concerned of—the defense and use of glyphosate. And from what I gathered, people are trying to use it sparingly, and when city officials are using it or people who work for the city are using it, they're trying to use protective equipment. That's fantastic. However, I think using less, as little as possible, is always actually of the most importance when you're applying something that is a non-target, widespread biocide. It is designed to kill, right?

Relena Ribbons (Assistant Professor of Geosciences - Lawrence University) 41:41

And so, I was thinking about this on my run this morning, when I ran past a few parks and I realized I've never seen a sign telling me "We've sprayed recently; stay off this for 24 hours," which is an important part of adhering to those regulations. Being aware that people shouldn't be on it; it's not good to have on your skin for a number of hours after it's applied.

Relena Ribbons (Assistant Professor of Geosciences - Lawrence University) 42:00

So, I was thinking about this and how there's a regular schedule for snow and lawn and mowing maintenance within that 82-page parks and grounds operation manual. It was instructive to look at this. And it helped me identify that there are regular routines, of course, for maintaining these public spaces. But I struggled to find a simple list of which chemicals are applied, how much is applied, how often and at what frequency. Surely such a

schedule exists with, of course, adaptations given weather conditions, which is required in the appropriate use of things like glyphosate, as all the kind of various documents indicate.

Relena Ribbons (Assistant Professor of Geosciences - Lawrence University) 42:36

I did see this blank template for applying chemicals, but isn't there also a database where you're keeping this information for records purposes, because these pesticides have legacy effects in the soils; they stick around. Glyphosate specifically, as numerous experts testified in their documentation, it binds to soil organic matter. But you know, we could do something really great in our park areas in the fall and mulch leaves and leaves the leaves there, because that helps build up soil organic matter which occludes chemically to glyphosate to prevent it from running off and getting into our groundwater. Well, we don't do that. And that's okay; there are steps for change. But we could even have something as straightforward as "Today we were spraying at Peabody Park; please take your children elsewhere to play," because anyone who's exposed to that who has a respiratory condition, such as all young people with developing respiratory systems really shouldn't be exposed to those kind of secondary effects of the pesticides.

Relena Ribbons (Assistant Professor of Geosciences - Lawrence University) 43:32

So, I ask this as a community member who's concerned about the effects of these chemicals for myself but for others, just so I can avoid these areas that have been recently sprayed, for example. I'd like to take my students out to go sampling insects, and I'd like to let them sample the plants safely, but I need to know if the area has been sprayed that day because I really shouldn't be taking them there. It's not ethical to expose them to those pesticides.

Relena Ribbons (Assistant Professor of Geosciences - Lawrence University) 43:54

So, I'm concerned also about the development of pesticide resistant plants. Glyphosate-resistant giant ragweed was found in Wisconsin in 2011. Plants continue to evolve and adapt. Subsequently, glyphosate resistance has been confirmed in horseweed, water hemp, palmer amaranth, and the non-giant variety of ragweed in 2018. That's a concerning trend, and it's not going to slow down with continued use by homeowners who are using it however they want to be using it because it's an off the shelf product.

Relena Ribbons (Assistant Professor of Geosciences - Lawrence University) 44:21

So, I invite you to share kind of what stages of the sustainable landscape management plan are you at. I know that this has been an ongoing mission, and I know this hard work is happening. I'd really like to see what you're doing so that when I call next time to talk to someone in facilities, and I say, "Could you please provide me with a simple list of pesticides," instead of being sent to five different voicemails, you could give me a simple answer of "We use these eight or the seven." And so, I just want to know when it's safe for community members to go play at the playground. Really. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 44:56

Is there anyone else who wishes to speak? All right, hearing none, we will close public participation.

[Cut]

Mayor Jake Woodford 48:26

We'll get started with the item from Parks and Recreation Committee. This is item 24-0341 resolution 4-R-24 sustainable use of pesticides. Alder Fenton.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 48:45

Just there's—I have some—no, wait a minute. I have some confusion about this one because it was an action item in two committees, and it was acted upon in one committee and appears before us now. But it was held at Municipal Services. So, and I had a brief conversation with Attorney Barron's about it. But so, I want to know what our options are here.

Mayor Jake Woodford 49:12

Attorney Behrens.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 49:15

Got a couple of options, one of which you can take up the item from Parks and Rec tonight, and if you take action on it, then, based on your Council rule, I believe Rule 11 says no items may be acted on within a year, then basically that item that's on the Municipal Services Committee, having been acted on here, becomes a moot item. And we would take care of it administratively and make a note if it's taken care of. So that's one option.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 49:42

Another option is to hold the item here, wait for Municipal Services to take some sort of action, whatever that may be, then it comes up and then it's taken up at a subsequent Council meeting as a consolidated action item. You may have two recommendations that differ. It'll be up to you to sort out then through the legislative process what you want to do with it at that point. Of course, the other option is referring the item back to Park and Rec. I don't know that that necessarily accomplishes anything, but that's something for all of you to decide.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 50:17

All right, thank you. That that clears things up a little.

Mayor Jake Woodford 50:24

So, we still need a motion. We have a motion and a second to approve. With that will take up discussion. Alder Meltzer.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 50:40

Thank you. I want to thank my colleague, Katie Van Zeeland, Alder Van Zeeland for the amendment provided at Park and Rec. And at this time, I am making a motion to add another amendment. So, taking the amended version as we received it and adding, in addition to that, "Let it be further resolved that the city will publicly release information regarding chemical pesticides using the new and updated website by the end of 2024." Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 51:20

All right, we have a motion and second to amend. We'll now—we're going to clear the queue and take up discussion on the motion to amend. Alder Van Zeeland.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 51:33

Thank you, chair. I had intended to amend this further after speaking with Director Gazza and with the mayor on a way of building the records into the turf management policy. So, I don't think that we're to a point where we can say that we're going to be publishing it in a website and we don't have anything really about how we're managing that record. So, I guess at this point, I would vote against this current amendment and hope that I can make this amendment in full.

Mayor Jake Woodford 52:08

Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 52:10

Thank you, Chair. I agree with Alderman Van Zeeland in regards to putting the cart before the horse. I believe that this amendments on the table would put the cart before the horse. I think we need to find out what the originally amended version will yield and move from there. So, I would encourage us to vote down this amendment. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 52:32

Alder Hayden.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 52:33

Thank you, Chair. I'm wondering if director Popp might be able to tell us if the website will be up and if staff will be trained to the level that they'd be actually able to do this by the end of this year.

Mayor Jake Woodford 52:43

I mean, I can take this. I can take this. We're in the process of training our team on content right now. So, city employees across departments are receiving extensive training on uploading that content. The web development on the back end is continuing a pace. Our goal is still to be at least in in some testing, some live testing, by the fall of this year. So, I would say it's feasible. I think functionally speaking, if the website's not up and running, we won't be able to post something to a new website if it's not if it's not ready to go yet, but that—irrespective of what the Council decides with this, this motion, if we don't have the new website up and running we won't be able to accomplish this, but not for lack of trying. Alder Meltzer.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 53:42

Thank you. I made the motion, and I should speak for a second in favor of this amendment. So, I encourage you all to support this amendment. I think that we have a very complicated and difficult resolution that two different committees have worked very hard on, and I think that adding this amendment to the work that we've already done, shows the community that we're listening to their concerns and priorities and also provides a trackable marker of the action that we are taking and the fact that we are taking action even if it's not going to be something that's necessarily visible to the community for a while, while the website is being developed. So, I encourage you to support this amendment. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 54:32

Alder Smith.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 54:35

I'd like to speak against the amendment. I think that the resolution as it stands is sort of gathers facts, and it's hard for me to see approving an amendment for a website that doesn't yet exist. So, it's hard to understand what this will look like because we don't know the website and, number two, for facts that haven't come in. So, it's hard to imagine how to best present that to the public. I think we should keep the amendment as is, see what we get at the end of the summer, and then talk about ways to disseminate that to the public. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 55:07

Alder Schultz.

Alderman Alex Schultz (District 9) 55:09

Thank you, Mayor. I feel like, generally speaking, we're all tracking towards the same goal. And I think I would hope we're all comfortable with that goal being an increase in transparency, publishing somewhere for, or at least making it available to the public, in some way, as was requested by one of our constituents, information about what the city's using, where it's using, how much it's using it, on what days. How we get there is a little challenging. This is an easy amendment to fix, take the end date off and just say, "on the new website, date, to be determined."

Alderman Alex Schultz (District 9) 55:48

But I think the goal, we'd all agree is to do a little bit better job of information sharing, because our constituents are concerned about their lack of access to knowledge about what's being spread in the public places. And I think, certainly, as has been said, many times, we trust our staff, we know we're doing they're doing the right thing, but there is a general lack of information unease with the public. And maybe it's all just fear and of the unknown. Maybe we're—there isn't a whole lot being spread and we're not using glyphosate all over the place, and parks are pretty clean, and we're doing the best we can. And there's really not that much out there. But that lack of information is the thing we're trying to address.

Alderman Alex Schultz (District 9) 56:33

I think the goal, in the end is going to be the same thing. We are going to want someplace for this information to reside for residents to get it. Where are they going to go? They're going to go to the website. And that should be the place where we can find lots of information about the things we're doing to service our citizens and how we're accomplishing and keeping our parks clean and looking nice.

Alderman Alex Schultz (District 9) 56:54

So regardless of how this is working, whether we're waiting for information, whether we're waiting for Parks and Rec to come up with their means of reporting it out, what that looks like, all of that has yet to be determined. It's part of the reason it was held at Muni is because we didn't have any clear answers about how to go about doing that. But in the end, this is where we're going to end up. So, I don't have an issue of saying that now and agreeing that that's our goal, because that's really all we're doing is establishing our goal with this resolution say, "Okay, we recognize we're falling short, whether we believe it or not, but our citizens are telling us telling us we are. We're going to shore up and share that information. And this is how we're going to do it." So, I would urge you to support the amendment. I would just maybe request that the author of the amended amendment maybe peel off the date of the new website, so at least it's not an issue.

Mayor Jake Woodford 57:52

Alder Heffernan.

Alderman Patti Heffernan (District 8) 57:54

Thank you, Chair. I just have clarifying questions. So, without this proposed amendment by Alder Meltzer. There are already efforts in place to collect the information about how much, when, and where so that it can be reported. Is that right?

Mayor Jake Woodford 58:13

Yes.

Alderman Patti Heffernan (District 8) 58:14

Okay. And then this amendment would just be more immediate or more permanent or I'm trying to figure out how this is like different from what's already being done.

Mayor Jake Woodford 58:26

I think given that Alder Meltzer in the queue, we'll go to Alder Meltzer for an opportunity to discuss that. Alder Meltzer.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 58:35

Thank you. So, as the resolution came to us from the Parks and Rec committee, it does not say anything about publishing the information on the website. Now, we're talking about a lot of amendments here, but the amendment that was made at parks and rec committee does not count as an amendment for our purposes right now. We're looking at resolution that came to us from Parks and Rec, I have made the first amendment to it. So, at this point, I will make a motion to amend my amendment because I believe that is following Robert's Rules correctly. So, I am moving to drop "by the end of 2024" from this amendment, so if I can get a second and we can agree and, like, move past this to get back to the regular discussion. That's my request of my colleagues. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 59:33

Alder Meltzer moves dropping the date. Is there a second? All right we do have a second. Any discussion on that amendment? Hearing none, we'll handle this on a voice vote. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Any opposed? With none opposed, that amendment passes.

Mayor Jake Woodford 59:53

So, we're back to the original amendment as proposed, or as now amended. Excuse me. With that we'll go to Alder Van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:00:06

Thank you, Chair. I had a really long conversation with Director Gazza after the Parks and Rec meeting about how his staff handles things like this, and I don't want to put words in his mouth. So, if I could just ask somebody from Parks and Rec to talk a little bit about the policy. It feels like I keep hearing that there is missing information, or I'm not seeing, you know, something that says there's pesticide application in the park. And so, we're asking Parks and Rec to prove that something that doesn't exist doesn't exist. If they could just expand on that. It's my understanding, we just aren't using a lot of these chemicals. Can we talk a little bit about that?

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:00:50

Director Gazza?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:00:54

So yeah, over the years, you know, we've been naturally cutting back on the use of chemicals. It's a goal of ours, just like it's a goal of anybody else's. The industry is working hard at doing that, too. So just over the years, I don't have a list of everything that we cut back from year to year, how many, how many less gallons or ounces that we've used of something, but we have made continual strides, and we only use it when it's absolutely necessary.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:01:21

There's just certain things that in order to meet the community's expectations for, whether it be maintaining the parks, whether it be the ball diamonds, or the golf course, there are things that are absolutely necessary to do that. One could say, Yeah, you could substitute that with doing it by hand or doing it in another means, but in many cases, we've looked at those and they're just either not feasible, or we don't have the financial resources to do that.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:01:53

We do put out postings every time. We follow the law. We have trained and certified individuals. They go out and every time we put a chemical boulder, they're bound by law and their training to put out a little stick with the little card on it. We do that we do not go out on the internet and say "We sprayed today." Half the time by the next day, it's moot point anyway, unless they were there, at the time of the spraying of the chemicals, and it was applied inappropriately, then it might be would become a point. But in many cases, they will apply when people aren't present. A lot of the places that we apply it to there's not even people present. A lot of things like at wastewater, the fence around the wastewater, try to keep the growth up in the fence lines, things like that.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:02:44

So we use vinegar in the playground. So that's not an issue. We do broadleaf control in the fall. We do the north parks one fall, south parks the next fall; it's only one time a year. We do use glyphosate to knock down weeds in cracks of sidewalks in difficult areas that are difficult to trim and to help with that, but again, we do that only when necessary and to meet the needs of the community and what their expectations are for what the park should look like and the public spaces.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:03:22

I have not in 18 years gotten one call for anybody to ask me about a chemical, what we've been using, how we've been using, and frequency. So, for me, it has not been an issue that has driven me to on my own think about this is something of an issue that I need to start publishing and start notifying. It just hasn't been an issue because we've been following the law and we've been doing it with trained professionals. So, I'll kind of cap it at that. But if you have any other specific questions, I'd be happy to answer whatever I can.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:03:57

Alder Doran?

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 1:04:00

Thank you. I want to just start I guess by saying that earlier the there were some comments about the mayor not necessarily being supportive of environmental and sustainability efforts, and I just I reject that. I think the mayor has been very supportive of those initiatives over the years, including supporting the Climate Change Task Force and numerous other initiatives that have helped the city move forward in that direction. And so, I think as a whole the staff has always done a good job of this over the years, and Director Gazza just talked about some of those efforts as well. But I have a question, I guess just more of a process, from a process standpoint about this resolution in general in that. I guess, Director Gazza, if you could answer if anyone, whether it's from Council or from the community, would be interested in asking for this information about what pesticides are used, is that something that you could produce and give them without having a resolution to direct you to do so?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:05:10

Yes. So, the usage of that, we don't keep it in one, stay, specific spreadsheet. So, the golf course has many sheets for every day they prepare it. So, it's a accumulate—accumulation of information. How to gather that or package that to give it to somebody to in a summary format, that's the thing we would have to do is just gather the sheets, the different sheets, and the different things that we've had from all of our different applications in order to gather it.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 1:05:40

And you could you could do that by request. I mean, you wouldn't—would you tell someone know that you're not going to do that if they ask for it?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:05:46

No, it's public information.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 1:05:48

Okay. Thank you. And for that reason, I guess I just, I don't see the reason that we're moving forward or considering supporting this resolution. We—the information is available, and I don't support us putting more regulations on staff to do things that they can do without the need of that to begin with. Our job is just to support staff in the work they do and giving them the tools to do their work, and we don't need to tell them to create this report when it's already information that is easily available for anyone to ask for. So, I would encourage our colleagues to defeat the resolution.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:06:30

Alder Meltzer.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:06:33

Thank you. I think that our city, especially being one of the charter, members of Green Tier and things like that, we have a long history of doing the right things, doing them well, and being a role model. Right now we have a problem in our community of people not knowing that, of people being afraid of chemicals, and I don't know if it's a problem with our current website, or if it's just kind of the siloing of departments, but constituents do try to find this information, and Dean Gazza is not the one getting their calls. That that's, that's obvious. So, I don't think that there's any issue with how Dean Gazza is handling any requests or how the city is handling any requests. I think there is an issue with how constituents feel they should or are able to make these requests and whether they feel that they are able to access the information. So, it's our job being the representatives that they elected, when we're presented with a problem, "Hey, we want this info. You're not getting it to us," then we got to say as a council, okay, how do we how do we figure out how to get this info out to the community successfully? Because regardless of how well we're doing as a role model in environmental practices, our community members who care the most about that, don't know, and that's a big problem. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:08:00

Just want to remind folks, we got to deal with the amendment yet on publishing information on the website. That's still what's before you. I think it's also worth noting that the item was amended at Parks and Rec. The original resolution called for the banning of these chemicals, and the response to that resolution was a—in response to what was submitted. So, I'd just like to clarify that because I feel like the discussion's drifting a little bit. We're losing track of—we're losing the thread of the of the resolution as it's moved through the legislative process. We do need to resolve this amendment that's before you right now on publishing on the website. Alder Schultz.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:08:43

Thank you, chair. Along that vein, if we could have a rereading of what came out of park and rec, because I don't think that's clear. It's wasn't included in the packet or the document to show us what that—it is in there? Okay, guess I didn't see it. I apologize.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:08:49

I—when we had the conversation of Parks and Rec, I understood that, you know, some of the applications were rapid, they were quick, they were in spots, that records weren't kept. There is a sheet that is supposed to capture the use of these chemicals when they're used. I think again, the reason we held this 'cause we didn't know exactly what the mechanism would be to share that information. If someone places a phone call to the

city and says, "Was something sprayed in this park?" Where do you even go for that information? And if you reach out to the parks and rec department, would they be able to gather that information. I'm being told now that, yes, that's possible. But my understanding, at least from what we heard at parks and rec was that those records aren't complete are kept on every single use or application of these pesticides within the city. So that's a little bit of a conflict, and it's a reason I thought it made sense to have more discussions about how to go about doing this? what kind of information do this partner gather? and how are we going to share it? Because I still don't have confidence that we have records of everything we're using in the city. If we're spraying fence lines along highway or playground fence, or—

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:10:12

I'll let it rest for the moment.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:10:12

Alder Schultz is this coming around to the amendment? If not, I'd ask that you—come back to—please come back to it. If it's not about the amendment come back to it when we get back to the to the main item.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:10:13

I just want to get the amendment sorted out. So, if there's more that needs to be discussed about the amendment, let's get that let's get that handled so we can get back to Alder Schultz's point. Any further discussion on the motion to amend? Alder Croatt.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 1:10:44

Yeah, thank you, Mayor. Just briefly. On the amendment, I just want to make sure I heard Alder Van Zeeland correctly earlier when she said—she commented about defeating the amendment because she was going to be proposing something else. I just wanted to make sure that I heard that correctly.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:11:02

Alder Van Zeeland?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:11:04

Yes, Your Honor. It was my intention to amend the amended resolution that came out of Parks and Recreation to more formally put the record keeping into the turf management policy.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:11:21

That answer your question, Alder Croatt?

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 1:11:22

Yes, thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:11:23

Okay. All right. We have a motion and a second to amend regarding posting to the website. That item has subsequently been amended striking the date. Any further discussion on the amendment? Hearing none, please cast your votes.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:11:45

Or maybe that's right one. I just—

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:11:47

Alder Van Zeeland, a point of order. We are we are in voting.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:11:50

I have a question. As I'm thinking about this, this was an amendment to an amendment, so if—can—no? Oh, okay. I thought I thought there was a second amendment. I just wanted to make sure—

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:12:03

That was handled. That was handled on a voice vote.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:05

Okay. But we would be able to amend—if this amendment were to go through, Attorney Behrens, would be able to amend again?

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:12:13

Attorney Behrens.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:12:15

I think there's some confusion because the item that was before park and rec was amended.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:19

Yes. Correct.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:12:20

But the item in front of Council as it appears in the agenda is the item. Never mind the word amendment to it.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:27

Okay, great.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:12:27

So, you could amend it. And by Robert's Rules, you can amend an amendment like we did earlier.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:32

I just knew you couldn't amend an amendment again on top of that, and so I wanted to—

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:12:36

This is a fresh item coming as a recommendation to this body.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:39

I appreciate it. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:12:41

All right. If you haven't voted yet, please cast your vote. Motion fails six to nine, and we're back to the item as presented from Parks and Rec. Alder Van Zeeland.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:58

Thank you, Chair. I would like to amend by substitution to build the record keeping into the turf management policy so when a pesticide is applied a record is kept of which pesticide, where, and—shouldn't say that. It will say which pesticide and where, as this creates a public record.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:13:20

We have a motion from Alder van Zeeland. Do we have a second? All right, we have a second.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:13:32

Get caught up here. All right. All right, we have a motion and a second.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:13:41

Could I just follow up on that, Your Honor?

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:13:42

Please.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:13:42

I think that my hope is that in clarifying the policy and putting that information together that that's the first step that if someone does request this information, now we know exactly where to find it. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:14:01

Alder Meltzer.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:14:05

Thank you. So, I guess I'd like to address the Alder Van Zeeland. The amendment by substitution, if I could just get some clarity on what part of what came out of park and rec, are we substituting. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:14:23

Alder Van Zeeland?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:14:25

My intention is that this amendment would replace the amendment as listed that came out of Parks and Rec. So, as I read it, "that we build the record keeping into the turf management policy, so when a pesticide is applied, a record is kept of which pesticide and where." I intend that to replace what we had talked about coming back after the summer. Just after speaking with Director Gazza, it seems like this is a more streamlined approach for everybody.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:14:56

Alder Alfheim.

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 1:14:58

Thank you, Chair. The challenge that I have with all of this is I'm—first the information that we're getting is that we want our public to be safe. I don't think anyone disagrees with that. I think it's a beautiful thing for things to be brought to our attention. My challenge in all of this, and perhaps it's more of a question anything. The city has a clear pattern of embracing the change in taking care of our environment. Alder Doran said that earlier. My concern is why this conversation is not at the desk of the Climate Advisory Committee which was built to work in cooperation, to help the city work on strategies to mitigate, adapt, and communicate our changes.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 1:15:48

So, I guess my challenge in all of this is this has been a long, following the videos, a long arduous conversation that needs to be had, but I'm afraid we're—why are we having it here? When my question would be, why are we not utilizing the committee to work with the city to come up with the solution, and then bring it to us as a clean package?

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 1:16:14

Now, that may not—that discussion may not help us tonight, but that's my frustration with this entire discussion. We have experts, we voted to have experts work with the city, we have a city willing to work with those experts. So, I guess my, perhaps, warning is to say can we use the process that we agreed we would use so that all these nuts and bolts can be worked out in cooperation? As opposed to us sitting here not knowing truly the best answer how to step forward, and in my opinion, everybody playing defense? I'm just gonna beg that we bring these issues to the proper method in the future. I will support the amendment as alder van Zeeland has listed it but I think we're doing this bass backwards, pardon my language.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:17:05

Alder Meltzer.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:17:07

Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:17:08

On the motion. On alder van Zeeland amendment.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:17:11

Well, actually, I'm really responding directly to the most recent comments. I think that, you know, the climate change committee isn't tasked with vetting resolutions as they come forward. The mayor did not refer this resolution to that committee, although that certainly could have been an option.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:17:29

No.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:17:30

Or okay, maybe not. Because it's advisory?

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:17:32

Council rules it can't. Correct. Sorry. Sorry to interrupt you. I just wanted to clarify right away.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:17:35

Thank you. Yeah, so the advisory nature of that committee makes it a place where certain types of work can't be done, and I think it would be very unhealthy for this Council to start setting up hoops that alders have to jump through in order to submit a resolution. I think that, you know, we can certainly have best practices, and we can encourage, you know, how to have, you know, good robust dialogues with each other, but I think that, you know, anyone who has been elected to these seats has the right to propose a resolution, regardless of the topic. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:18:14

Alder Fenton.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:18:17

Thank you, Your Honor. So, I think we've probably address the point about the climate advisory panel, and I—to me, this is not a susta—it is, but it's what we have distilled this resolution to down to now is not a sustainability issue. I along with my colleagues are really am really, really proud of the efforts that our city has made with regards to sustainability, and I also believe that our city staff is to be commended for being the most responsible user users of the chemical pesticides that we use in the city and I—whether I want to or not, I still believe that there are chemicals that have to be used for certain things.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:19:25

Where I would like to see Alder van Zeeland's resolution go further, is I think, when we got when we got these in both committees, we kind of admitted that we really did not have an accurate inventory of all the chemicals that were being used in the city. So, the amended resolution that came out of Parks and Recreation will address that or would address that that we will get a comprehensive list, because the original resolution, likely many of those chemicals aren't in use anymore. So, so we want to know what's being used. I think putting into the turf management process is an excellent idea, knowing what was used and when.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:20:14

Where I am somewhat concerned (and clearly my colleagues don't all agree with me), I think we're missing the step of making it easily available to the public. So, if somebody—I know we placard—but if somebody is planning something, and they have a known sensitivity or a school trip, and they're planning something, I think it would be—I would like to see us get to a point—I'll support this resolution, if that's as far as we can get. But I would like to see us get to a point that we can get some of this information as easily as we can get, say, "what date is my recycling get picked up on?" from without figuring out who you need to call in the city. And again, I'll support this amendment, but I would like to see us go further than this. In terms of transparency. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:21:11

Just like to offer a point of clarification on Alder Fenton's point, which is there's no opposition from my administration when it comes to being transparent about the use of these chemicals, none whatsoever. So, the means of delivery, if that's the website, a point was made earlier that that is where most people access information. I agree with that point. There's no opposition from us with respect to making that information publicly available. So just want to offer that as a point of information for the Council. Alder Van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:21:47

Thank you, Chair. I did forget to thank the committee for all the hard work that they did at parks and recreation, and I think we did a lot of really important work it even if we started backwards. I think we got where we needed to go. And I think that once we start this record keeping everyone will be really surprised that how little we actually are using these items. Because Director Gazza had a list for us to take a look at during our meeting. I mean, it may not be comprehensive, and that's what we want to make sure, but I think that we're all going to be really surprised by what little recordkeeping there actually is. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:22:30

Alder Schultz.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:22:32

Thank you, Chair. I will support this amendment. I think it gets us closer to where we want to be. I would remind Council that we have a Bee City certification (that's a partnership between the city and civic organization), and one of their goals is to see a reduction and disuse of chemicals like glyphosate and 2 4 D and others. And so, there's a shared commitment and goal there. And I think we're trying to chase it. We're doing our best. I know that there are issues where or places where we can't use it, but when you think about—I don't want to go on too long here—but we found ourselves in this position before as a society with PFAS compounds and other chemicals that we didn't realize were unsafe until they became unsafe, and we were made aware of that.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:23:26

I think glyphosate is tracking down that path, and at some point, we're gonna have to find alternatives, and hopefully, there's better stuff out there. This probably is the best that we can use right now, and we have to do it safely, which we do. So that's fantastic. But I think conversation has to begin with sharing information to the public and then saying, are we—can we find alternatives? Are there organic versions of pesticide and insecticide control that maybe we should also be exploring?

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:23:56

I think staff does a great job. They go to a lot of conferences, they have more knowledge on this than probably the rest of us do about what's out there and what other communities are using, but I do know that there are communities that are getting away from using pesticides completely in their parks, maybe not in every one of their parks, but some parks. And there are some communities that have gotten rid of it altogether. So, it's coming and I think we're going on the right path. I commend the work here and the res—the amendment to get us to that next step. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:24:27

Alder Meltzer.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:24:29

Thank you. I wanted to thank Alder Van Zeeland for this amendment by substitution. I think that we—after the discussion out of two committees, I think that this specific amendment now really gets to the heart of the biggest challenge and question that arose in both of those committee meetings. So, I am really glad that we were able to go from a point of not being sure how to move forward to a point of "Alright, we're on the right track," to the point of, "Okay now this is actually how we tie it down to the earth so that we can start to observe tangible results." I really like this, you know, creation of a paper trail and the encoding in the turf plan. I think that this is—I encourage all my colleagues to support this. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:25:22

Any further discussion on the amendment? Hearing none, we have a motion and a second to amend Please cast your votes. Motion passes 15 to zero, the item has been amended.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:25:41

Now we're back to the item. Any further discussion on the item? Hearing none, please cast your votes. Motion passes 15 to zero. The item has been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:26:12

Now that that's resolved, I just would like to speak on this item on the record just to clarify some things. This process didn't initiate as a conversation. It initiated as a resolution that was submitted and read into the record, and my administration responded to the resolution that was submitted and read into the record. Subsequent

discussions went down a path of talking about records keeping and public information, and I'm afraid that it's been framed as though there's opposition or unwillingness on the part of my administration, the Parks and Rec Department, our Department of Public Works, Utilities to share information publicly about the chemicals we use, the processes we use to serve the community. And that that's an unfortunate thing, and it's not accurate. And so, I just want to make that clear, that that we're happy to share this information.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:27:19

And as these conversations evolve and emerge and the desires of the community change, we want to be responsive to those things, but quite frankly, I'm troubled by the assertion that that we're trying to be anything other than open and communicative with the Council or the community. And I would ask that when reso—when you're contemplating a resolution, that you please talk with us, because we're happy to talk through it and try to get to a place where ideally we don't need a resolution. We can just work through this.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:27:54

I think it's great that the Council you work through a legislative process, which I completely respect, and that is your prerogative as a body, but the action that you took tonight did not require legislative process from my perspective. And so again, it's your prerogative as a body to do that. We respect that, and we will we will run that process however you like. But I just would like to like to make that point on the record.