



**June 10, 2022**

**8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

**Franklin City Hall Training Room**

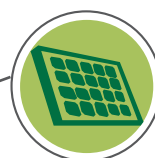
8:00 am	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Todd Palmer
8:05 am	<b>*Approval of May Meeting Minutes</b>	Todd Palmer
8:05 am -- 8:10 am	<b>Announcements:</b> <b>-Enexor Visit</b> <b>-MTE electric vehicle data at future meeting</b> <b>-August 9th BOMA WS</b>	Andrew Orr
8:10 am -- 8:30 am	<b>*Waste Reduction Policy Guide Discussion</b>	Andrew Orr
8:30 am -- 8:55 am	<b>*Transportation Policy Guide Discussion</b>	Eric Conner
8:55 am-- 9:00 am	<b>News/Updates/Adjourn</b>	Todd Palmer

\*Item contains an attachment or link

**CITY OF FRANKLIN MISSION STATEMENT:** Franklin will continually strive to be a community of choice for individuals, families, and businesses to grow and prosper through an excellent quality of life supported by exceptional, responsive, and cost-effective City services.

Brenton Montgomery (12/14/2024)	Todd Palmer (8/27/2022)
Mike Cassity (11/10/2024)	Dana Kose (12/10/2022)
Beverly Burger (BOMA co-terminus)	John Brevard (12/14/2024)
Eric McElroy (Franklin Tomorrow co-terminus since 2/8/2022)	Chase Harper (12/14/2024)
R. Keith Gordon (3/23/2024)	

*The Sustainability Commission was created to continue the work Initiated by the Sustainability Task Force and to act as a policy advisory body to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and City Administrator in the development and initiation of programs that will enhance and promote economic development, environmental health, and social equity within our community for present and future generations (Ord. 2009-41).*



# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FRANKLIN SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

May 12, 2022

Members Present: **Todd Palmer, Alderman Beverly Burger, Mike Cassity, Eric McElroy, Chase Harper, Dana Kose, and Keith Gordon**

Members Absent: **John Brevard, and Brenton Montgomery**

Staff Present: **Eric Conner, Andrew Orr, Mark Hilty**

Visitors: **Randy James, Laura James, Case White**

The Franklin Sustainability Commission held a regular meeting on Friday, May 12, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. in the Franklin City Hall Training Room.

## Welcome and Introductions

**Chair Palmer** welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

## Williamson County Recycling Update

**Randy James** gave his presentation regarding the current status of recycling to the Commission. The full presentation, including script is below:

- "Several countries have stopped accepting U.S. waste exports". Why???
- "The EPA received funding from the bipartisan infrastructure bill passed last year to support local waste management infrastructure and recycling programs."
- "Recycling does not work, it never will work, and no amount of false advertising will change that."
- "Plastic recycling rates dropped to close to 5% down from close to 9%."

- Reuters-

- "The system is broken."
- "The low recycling rate isn't just the result of consumers being lazy: Even when consumers put items in the proper bins, more than 80% of the plastic will go to the landfill, while about 11% will be incinerated".
- "The U.S. barely recycled last year"

-Gizode/Univision-



- In Williamson County Tennessee recycle tons have remained flat since 2010 while the population has grown nearly 40%.

-World population review-

Hello: My name is Randall James. I am an employee of P&H Properties, LLC who operates the Williamson County MRF or materials recovery facility. Let me get to the point:

- I agree with the points in the above articles and see firsthand the pitfalls of our current systems of recycling. We are not keeping up with demand. We are not moving the needle.
- It does not have to be this way. We can do better. This situation can be adjusted to become a win/win for us and our generations to come.
- We have an opportunity right in front of us to totally streamline recycling and move the effort in the right direction.

We must increase our recycling volume. We need to structure the process so that it becomes routine and available for all. This will increase volume.

My first start up recycling facility was in Biloxi, MS. The owner of P&H Properties met my wife and I at an old 10,000 square foot shell of a metal building that had a roof. He showed us the recycle symbols on plastic and the different types of metal and paper that we would be recycling, then he wished us luck. A few days after he left heavy equipment started arriving that looked like it was bought sight unseen on "eBay". My skills in heavy equipment, hydraulics, pneumatics, electrical and maintenance paid off as we made the necessary repairs. Then the hundreds of tons of pre-sorted recycling began showing up from BFI and Advanced Disposal and we were quickly overwhelmed. We worked round the clock until we succeeded. I think our greatest asset was the fact that we knew nothing about recycling and therefore had no idea what we were not suppose do.





*In Biloxi we had to figure out what to do with glass. We had never seen it done before so we bought a steel wheel roller, crushed it, screened it and sold it for road bed and sandblasting sand. We just did what made sense. (disclaimer: The kids would show up on weekends and help us so we may not have always worn our PPE)*

*According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation 2017 study "the utilization of glass in civil engineering applications has and remains an emerging market".*





The result was an extremely efficient operation that corporate executives came from all over the country came to see. One of them ended up paying P&H a lot of money for that MRF. Many of the systems and processes that we developed in Biloxi are used in Williamson County to this day.

Since our time in Biloxi Laura and I have become experts in many forms of recycling from a tire transfer station in Raleigh NC to single stream operations in Biloxi, MS Asheville, NC. Hattiesburg, MS. Franklin, TN and others. We are now minor owners in P&H and our efforts have helped Williamson County recycling sustain.







By sustain I mean operated at a cost that is cheaper than the alternative: Landfill.

We at P&H are passionate about recycling and cannot point to one place in the world that we would consider a sustainable recycling operation. We believe that a sustainable recycling operation would recycle at such a volume that landfill space would be plentiful and commodities prices would plunge. ....

For example: As a norm, places that throw away 300 tons a day (class 1) only recycle about 15 tons a day. A truly sustainable operation would recycle 150 tons a day and throw away 150 tons a day. That would be a 50% diversion. When we find a way to make 50% diversion actually happen it would be in line with the Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 and the Tennessee Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan 2015.

Let's look at the five criteria that could get us on the path to sustainability:

- Convenient public access that is classy and attractive. Most towns have intersections in which the daily traffic equals the entire population of a given area. Put a drop point here.
- Allow for easy public deposit and sorting of recyclables. Allow the public to make recycling part of their daily routine.
- Make recycling available to everyone including apartment dwellers and businesses.



- No county or city trucks or employees involved in household recycling collection process.
- Qualified and motivated processing contractors. (Nothing says performance better than business ownership and competition).
- Materials facility for bale collection, glass processing and commercial drop off.
- Communication and co-operation between Cities and Counties. (what one needs the other may have).







*The crew pictured above, several of my children and my wife all worked on the sort line separating the recycling for the City of Franklin Tennessee. The material would come in all mixed together and we would all line up beside a conveyor and as the material passed by we would each pick about 120 items a minute. Working as hard as we could we could produce about 3000 pounds an hour. There was 17 of us. We sorted through the medical waste, food and recyclables. The system was unreliable and incapable then and now. I've never admitted this but I was embarrassed for my crew and my family and just as passionate about the job at hand as I am today. It was nasty demeaning work.*

**I am proposing doing away with convenience centers and single stream sort lines and city pick-up of household recycling.**

### **The Vision:**

I see a store front drop point located near our busiest intersection. Maybe located in a shopping center space. I can see myself parking, plugging in my car and getting a shopping cart that is stored in the parking lot. I fill the cart full of my recyclables and sort them into access windows located on the storefront. I see through a window in the wall into the space. I see crates of bottles, paper and metal being rolled over to a conveyor and dumped. I see the conveyor feeding a baler and making bales. I see an employee loading bales directly onto a truck headed for a MRF where bales from several cities and counties are being staged to be shipped by truck and rail. I see another machine shredding plastic that is being used to generate electricity in a small bio generator located on site. I see a large glass container being

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION





loaded for transport to a glass processing area shared by several counties and cities. I see a small business owner and an apprentice. I see a drop point that produces several hundred tons per month of recycling. I see the community working together for the common good.

Financial projection for first start up.

While the exact timing and requirements for qualifying for Federal Funding are not known I know from experiences that our neighboring counties and cities all find themselves in the same situation. I also know from experience that our City and County leaders support the free exchange of ideas and work well together. For example: I know that the County is building a brand new education facility, Materials Recovery and glass processing area that given the right proposal would be at our disposal. Here is what we need to take the first step.

Building lease .....	\$20,000	mo
Baler .....	\$120,000	purchase
Maintenance and build out .....	\$ 50,000	one time
Materials Recovery Facility and glass processing	\$25,000,000	Operated by contractor

Revenue

Operating partner supplies everything else and pays \$ 20 per ton for every bales shipped out starting at ton #101. as the site gains in popularity you may see up to 600 tons..... \$2000 to \$8000 per month. The operating agreement between P&H and Williamson County would be a good template to hire our first contractor.

With success comes multiple location, revenue stream and profitable recycling operations. Instead of recycling at -175.00 a ton you operate at +20 per ton

You create a reliable and sustainable outlet for your recyclables.

**"If we want to sustain our environment we must conserve our landfill"**

-Randall James-

**Randy James** reiterates that a major concern of his, that his vision hopes to alleviate, is that Williamson County recycles in little groups instead of with a wholistic approach, references the attached table.

**Alderman Burger** asked **Randy James** to explain his drop-off center concept further, he explains his drop-off center and answers questions related to it.



**Randy James** confirms that his drop-off center concept relies on high traffic areas and emphasizes convenience to encourage recycling rates. States that there is potential for these centers to be built into new developments and infrastructure. States that he would conceptualize at least 4 locations in Franklin.

**Randy James** describes the potential for cost savings with convenient drop-off centers, when compared to the City's current recycling model.

Discussion ensued.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

**Chair Palmer** asked for a motion to approve the April 8, 2022 minutes.

**Alderman Burger** moved, seconded by **Mr. Cassity**, to approve the April 2022 minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Updates/Other News/Adjourn**

**Chair Palmer** stated that he spoke to Enexor, and they would be willing to host the Commission on a trip sometime during the last two weeks of June.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.





**\*DRAFT\* WASTE REDUCTION  
POLICY GUIDE**

The City of Franklin is committed to minimizing waste in its municipal operations and promoting waste reduction strategies to the community.



**POLICY STATEMENTS**

1. The City seeks to promote existing waste reduction programs.
2. New opportunities should be evaluated that would further waste reduction efforts.
3. Litter along streets and waterways should be monitored and collected promptly.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Increase blue bin recycling participation to 75% of eligible households by 2025.
2. Evaluate options to increase recycling of material not included in the Blue Bin Program such as glass and large cardboard.
3. Promote the Batteries, Oil, Paint, Anti-freeze, and Electronics (BOPAE) recycling.
4. Evaluate options for increasing capacity for brown bag processing.
5. Evaluate options to encourage and process food waste composting.
6. Conduct an annual litter survey of roadsides throughout the City and coordinate litter pickups.
7. Conduct annual river and stream litter pickups.
8. Evaluate municipal procurement of supplies and materials made from recycled materials.
9. Evaluate waste reduction efforts and goods



**TOTAL CITY OF FRANKLIN WASTE BREAKDOWN**

Year	Customers	Tons of Waste	Tons of Recyclables	Tons of BOPAE	Tons of Yard Waste
2018	24,344	19,538	3,319	340	6,326
2019	24,307	19,905	3,356	310	7,223
2020	23,938	23,361	1,801	310	7,162

\*Yard Waste includes brown bags, leaf, and brush collection

**ACTION ITEMS (Continued)**

- made from recycled materials for the new City Hall project.
10. Utilize social media and conventional media channels to inform residents and businesses about recycling opportunities.
11. Utilize social media, conventional media channels, and potentially signage to discourage roadside littering.



---

## \*DRAFT\* TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY POLICY GUIDE

---

Traffic consistently ranks as one of the top citizen concerns and complaints. The City seeks to improve mobility by shortening the time it takes to complete trips, reducing vehicle miles traveled, and providing alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips.

### POLICY STATEMENTS

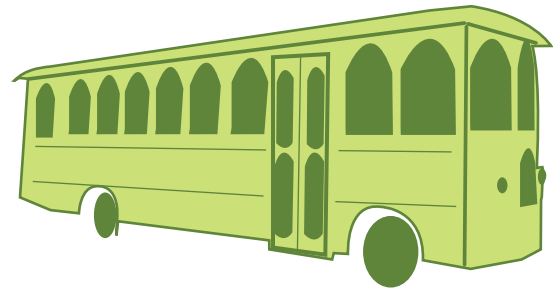
1. Reduce peak-hour travel times;
2. Provide safe and effective multimodal options for transportation;
3. Provide safe pedestrian and bicycle connections between residential areas and local destinations;

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Improve traffic flow on existing streets by adaptive signalization projects.
2. Participate in Regional Transportation efforts to increase mobility to/from Franklin.
3. Establish evaluation processes for completed Capital Improvement Projects.
4. Increase youth engagement City-wide and encourage local schools to establish a Safe Routes to School program to ease peak pick-up and drop-off traffic.
5. Increase public knowledge of the available multi-use paths and trails through mapping and outreach.
6. Participate in National Bike/ Pedestrian annual counts.
7. Establish a Bike/Walk Franklin group.
8. Increase sidewalk and multi-use trail connectivity across Franklin.
9. Evaluate the effectiveness of an electric bike share program.

### COMMUTING IN FRANKLIN

- Approximately 10,300 citizens live and work in Franklin and 80% commute by vehicle alone. (2019 Citizen Survey)
- Approximately 66,000 people work in Franklin but commute from outside City limits.
- Approximately 23,000 citizens live in Franklin but commute outside the City for work.
- Average commute time of approximately 25 minutes.



---

### WALKABILITY IN FRANKLIN

- 385 miles of sidewalk and 26 miles of public multi-use trail throughout the city.
- Average walk score of 23/100 within the city, walk score of 67 at City Hall.
- 12 miles of proposed multi-use trails in the City's CIP

