



**SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY June 5, 2025 at 8:00 AM
VIA ZOOM MEETING**

Members Present: Anne Williams, Council Chair
Nancy Moore, Council Member
Tennille Kaus, Council Member
James Sammon, Citizen Member
Jonathan Hren, Citizen Member
Sara Schiavoni, Citizen Member

Others Present: Jeri Chaikin, CAO
Patrick Sweeney, Chief of Fire
Chuck Orłowski, Assistant Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF May 1, 2025 MEETING MINUTES.

The minutes of May 1, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

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Resolution to Support Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan (2026 -2040)

Presenter: Chuck Orłowski, Assistant Director of Public Works

Chuck Orłowski provided an overview of the updated Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan, revised in accordance with Ohio House Bill 592 (1988). The plan outlines strategies for waste reduction, landfill capacity management, and recycling efforts across Shaker Heights and 59 other municipalities within the county. It has undergone EPA review, with all feedback incorporated, and received no public comments during the official comment period or hearing. To move forward, 60% of municipalities must ratify the plan by August 10, 2025. The City of Shaker Heights is being asked to adopt a resolution in support of the plan.

Committee member James Sammon raised concerns about widespread public skepticism surrounding the legitimacy of local recycling efforts and requested a clear, accessible explanation to help address community confusion. In response, Assistant Director Chuck Orłowski explained that the city uses split-body trucks to separate

recyclables from trash at the point of collection. However, recycling loads that are contaminated—typically with food waste or non-recyclable items—can be rejected and redirected to landfills. These materials are then taken to Waste Management for further sorting. Orlowski emphasized that public education remains a key strategy, with ongoing outreach through flyers, the city’s website, and community events. Councilmember Nancy Moore added that recycling is driven by market demand rather than the recycling symbols found on packaging, and noted that contamination standards have become more stringent since China stopped accepting U.S. recyclables. Improper recycling can result in financial penalties to the city, making resident education essential. She reiterated the guiding principle: “When in doubt, throw it out.” In response to a question from Councilmember Anne Williams regarding changes to the updated Solid Waste Management Plan, Orlowski noted that while most revisions involve updated data, the new plan places greater emphasis on commercial recycling, expanded public education efforts, and potentially reviving court-assigned cleanup programs.

The motion was unanimously approved.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 am. The next meeting will be July 3, 2025.

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Respectfully submitted,

Anne Williams, Council Chairperson
Safety & Public Works Committee