



**ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL**  
**GENERAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Jack Flynn, Chair**

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Meeting Called By:      Jack Flynn, Chair      Date: 7/10/2023      Time: 5:30

Committee Members:	Flynn, Chair ☑   Anane ☑   Clarke ☑   Love ☑   Zamer ☑ (Checked to signify present)
Council Member(s) Present:	Keegan
City Personnel Present:	Joel Stetson, Joseph Giebelhaus, Frank Zeoli, Sergio Panunzio, Jake Eisland, Bryan Jimenez, Max Thierry, and Juliette Geraghty

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*Minutes*

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**Agenda Item:**

- **ORDINANCE 25.61.23**  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL AMENDING CHAPTER 323 (STREETS AND SIDEWALKS) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY CODIFYING EXEMPTIONS FOR SNOW REMOVAL FROM SIDEWALKS
- **ORDINANCE 23.61.23**  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 313 (SOLID WASTE) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY RESTRICTING ACCESS TO CITY LANDFILL FACILITIES
- **ORDINANCE 24.61.23**  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 313 (SOLID WASTE) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY CODIFYING THE REGULATIONS AROUND BUILDING MATERIALS AND MATTRESSES FOR CURBSIDE COLLECTION
- **ORDINANCE 28.62.23**  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 313 (SOLID WASTE) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY BY ADDING A PERMITTING SYSTEM FOR COMMERCIAL HAULERS OF SOLID WASTE
- **ORDINANCE 17.42.23**  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 313 (SOLID WASTE) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY CREATING AN INCREASING FEE SCALE AND MODIFYING THE NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR REPEAT VIOLATIONS OF TRASH AND LITTER PROVISIONS

**Speaker(s):**

- Sergio Panunzio, Commission of DGS: On the status and future of the landfill
- Frank Zeoli, Deputy Commissioner of DGS: On the status and future of the landfill
- Joseph Giebelhaus, Deputy Commissioner of DGS: On the status and future of the landfill
- Michael O'Brien, former Albany City Council Member: On landfill working group

**Questions and Discussion:**

- The Chair called the meeting to order and invited Sergio Panunzio, Frank Zeoli, and Joseph Giebelhaus up to speak.
- Joseph Giebelhaus spoke on the landfill closure date of May 2028.
- Council Member Love asked about what changed about timeframe for closing, to which Joseph Giebelhaus responded that the trash is settling at a greater rate than being deposited.
- Council Member Zamer asked about 2017 RFP for a transfer station, to which Joseph Giebelhaus responded that they are premature in sending the RFP out because of new closure dates.
- Council Member Zamer asked if they are working under the assumption that a transfer station would be the best solution, to which Joseph Giebelhaus responded that they do not have enough waste for other technologies besides a transfer station.
- Council Member Zamer asked about when the RFP process would restart, to which Joseph Giebelhaus responded that it would restart next year.
- Council Member Clarke asked about the success of the waste diversion programs they have instituted, to which Frank Zeoli responded programs are being utilized more.
- Council Member Flynn asked for clarification if continued reduction/recycling could lead to a longer timeframe for the landfill, which Sergio Panunzio confirmed.
- Council Member Clarke asked for an update on the gas collection system and its litigation.
  - Sergio Panunzio responded that they have a new company, OPAL Fuels, that has been effectively processing gas from the landfill and the City is receiving funds from its sale.
- Council Member Anane asked about future plans when the landfill closes, to which Joseph Giebelhaus responded that they decided not to move on any proposals from 2017 RFP because it was too early.
- Council Member Anane asked if there are still commercial companies dumping in the landfill, to which Joseph Giebelhaus responded that there are very few.
- Council Member Anane asked if they plan to put out an RFP to figure out what to do with the landfill, to which Joseph Giebelhaus confirmed they would.
- Council Member Flynn asked for clarification on the RFP, to which Sergio Panunzio responded.
- Council Member Flynn asked about budget needs for the landfills, to which Joseph Giebelhaus responded they should remain consistent.
- Council Member Love asked about a new DGS vehicle, to which Frank Zeoli responded it is an anti-graffiti van.
- Council Member Flynn asked about a 17-page civil engineering proposal from November 2022, to which Sergio Panunzio responded that it was for a consultant to study the market.
- The Chair invited Michael O'Brien to speak, who then spoke on the former landfill working group and the 2017 RFP for a transfer station.
- Council Member Anane asked how the 2028 date was decided, to which Joseph Giebelhaus responded that the surveyors collect information from the landfill twice per year.
- Council Member Anane asked about the rate of settlement, to which Joseph Giebelhaus responded.
- Council Member Zamer asked about where the revenue comes from, to which Joseph Giebelhaus responded that tipping fees are a source of revenue.
- Council Member Clarke asked about when we should start looking at alternatives, to which Joseph Giebelhaus responded next year.
- Council Member Clarke asked whether the landfill working group should be set up again, to which Sergio Panunzio responded.
- Council Member Flynn asked whether quarterly meetings should start next year, which Sergio Panunzio confirmed.
- Council Member Anane asked about getting rid of the trash fee, to which Frank Zeoli responded that the trash fee is only for collection. It would likely go up if/when the transfer station is operating.
- Council Member Flynn spoke on Ordinance 23.61.23.

- Frank Zeoli spoke on the content of the ordinance, stating that it cleans up language as the code refers to items no longer provided by DGS.
- Council Member Clarke moved to pass Ordinance 23.61.23 out of committee with a favorable recommendation, seconded by Council Member Anane, and passed by voice vote.
- Council Member Flynn recognized Council Member Keegan to discuss Ordinance 25.61.23.
- Council Member Keegan spoke on the ordinance, stating it is in anticipation for other language change to include exemption for failing to clear sidewalks of snow.
- Frank Zeoli discussed the legislation, asking who cleans the sidewalk when requirement is waived.
- Council Member Keegan stated she is fine with legislation being held to be worked on more.
- Council Member Love stated the full committee should have input in snow removal.
- Council Member Love moved to hold Ordinance 25.61.23, seconded by Council Member Zamer, and passed by voice vote.
- Council Member Flynn recognized Council Member Zamer to discuss Ordinance 24.61.23.
- Sergio Panunzio expressed support for the legislation stating bedbugs are an issue with disposed items.
- Frank Zeoli stated they would implement education programs and provide bags at a reduced price.
- Council Member Clarke asked about homeowners contacting DGS and perhaps implementing a sticker program for DGS-cleared items for pickup, to which Frank Zeoli responded.
- Council Member Anane stated support for legislation but expressed minor concerns with unintended consequences, such as college students moving out.
  - Frank Zeoli responded unwrapped mattresses would be illegal trash.
  - Sergio Panunzio elaborated that unwrapped mattresses would be picked up mechanically.
- Council Member Anane asked about extending timeframe to 60 days after enactment for educating constituents on new law, to which Frank Zeoli responded it is not an issue.
- Council Member Zamer moved to pass Ordinance 24.61.23 out of committee with a favorable recommendation pending amendment at the 7/17 regular meeting, seconded by Council Member Love, and passed by voice vote.
- Council Member Flynn recognized Council Member Keegan to discuss Ordinance 28.61.23.
- Council Member Keegan discussed that the ordinance allows DGS to enforce situations that DGS has had trouble enforcing in the past.
- Frank Zeoli stated that DGS generally supports the legislation, but would prefer that the Common Council hold it for minor adjustments.
- Council Member Keegan stated she is fine with legislation being held.
- Council Member Clarke moved to hold Ordinance 28.62.23, seconded by Council Member Zamer, and passed by voice vote.
- Council Member Flynn read a statement by Council Member Romero discussing Ordinance 17.42.23.
- Frank Zeoli stated they have no issue with implementing a one-notice policy, but other issues may appear, such as constituent complaints.
- Council Member Zamer asked about property owners exploiting a loophole, to which Frank Zeoli responded.
- Research Counsel Jake Eisland discussed changes to legislation.
- Frank Zeoli asked for clarification on changes to the fee scale.
- Council Member Keegan talked about implementing a one-notice policy.
  - Frank Zeoli responded about tenants not knowing or listening to the trash schedule.
- Council Member Clarke moved to hold Ordinance 17.42.23 for further discussion regarding the fine schedule, seconded by Council Member Zamer, and passed by voice vote.

#### **Public Comment:**

- Lynn Jackson, 223 South Swan St, Albany, NY 12202- Volunteer for “Saving the Pine Bush”, spoke on the closure of the landfill and its relation to the Pine Bush expansion
- Wendy Dwyer, 23 Golder St, Albany, NY 12209- Festivals and plastic usage

#### **Adjourn:**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6:37PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Juliette Geraghty

Junior Legislative Aide