



RESOLUTION 2020-084

OPPOSING THE PROPOSED TIPPING FEE AND REGIONAL SYSTEM FEE INCREASES BY METRO

WHEREAS, each year, Metro, our regional government, adjusts their Tip Fee for waste haulers within the Portland metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, this annual adjustment usually takes place on July 1st of each year; and

WHEREAS, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no adjustment was made on July 1, 2020 by Metro; and

WHEREAS, the current Tip Fee is \$98.75 per ton; and

WHEREAS, Metro originally proposed a Tip Fee increase to \$107.64 per ton, an increase of \$9.29 per ton or 9 percent, which would be effective January 4, 2021 and followed by another Tip Fee increase in an unspecified amount to be effective July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Metro received significant feedback from various stakeholders, such as the solid waste industry and local governments, including the City of Sherwood, about their original proposal; and

WHEREAS, Metro staff developed two alternative proposals in addition to the original proposal (Option 1) for consideration by the Metro Council related to a Tip Fee increase; and

WHEREAS, Option Two would be a Tip Fee of \$113.82 per ton, an increase of \$15.07 per ton or 15.3 percent, which would be effective July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Option Three would delay any Tip Fee increase until July 1, 2022, in an amount to be determined; and

WHEREAS, Metro staff will be recommending Option Two as the preferred option for the Metro Council to approve at a Metro Council meeting on December 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Tip Fees directly affect the cost of solid waste collection services, and these increased costs are passed through to customers, including residents and businesses in the City of Sherwood; and

WHEREAS, in light of the ongoing economic challenges during this Covid-19 pandemic for individuals and businesses, the timing and amount of this proposed Tip Fee increase could have a particularly negative impact on vulnerable residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Metro has slowed their original implementation process and engaged with various stakeholders, but a decision to act on December 17, 2000 still appears unnecessarily rushed and without full review of all potential alternatives; and

WHEREAS, Metro has not exhausted all opportunities to minimize or eliminate the need for the Tip Fee increase, including but not limited to suspending separation of dry waste and wet waste, delaying the effective date of excise tax increases, hiring freezes, early retirement programs, increased use of rate stabilization fund, use of general fund reserves, and eliminating or pausing services during the pandemic; and;

WHEREAS, a proposed historic increase of 15.3% during a pandemic requires a more formal process to engage government and industry stakeholders in partnership with Metro staff to develop proposed solutions and recommendations to Metro Council; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing, the Sherwood City Council is opposed to the proposed Option One and Option Two Tip Fee increases; and

WHEREAS, Metro has established a Regional System Fee (RSF) to be used for region-wide benefits, such as recycling education, illegal dumping, and the like; and

WHEREAS, the RSF has a direct cost impact on the City of Sherwood and its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the RSF is not used toward operation costs for Metro-owned transfer stations, nor for capital improvements or expenses, nor other similar costs; and

WHEREAS, Metro has not provided full clarity as to its use of RSF funds and should not increase the RSF without first providing such clarity.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF SHERWOOD RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

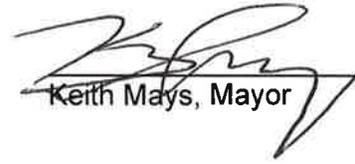
Section 1. The Sherwood City Council is currently opposed to the Options One and Option Two Tip Fee increases proposed by Metro.

Section 2. The Sherwood City Council urges Metro to take the time to carefully consider the impacts of a Tip Fee increase on vulnerable residents and businesses during the challenging economic circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to thoroughly review all opportunities to minimize or eliminate the need for a Tip Fee increase prior to taking any action to increase the Tip Fee.

Section 3. The Sherwood City Council opposes any increase to the Regional System Fee unless and until Metro first provides full transparency on the use of these funds and clear justification for an increase based on necessary and appropriate use of these funds.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be effective upon its approval and adoption.

Duly passed by the City Council this 15th of December, 2020.


Keith Mays, Mayor

Attest:


Sylvia Murphy, MMC, City Recorder