



Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, July 10, 2023

1. Roll Call

Mayor Roe called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. Voting and Seating Order: Etten, Schroeder, Groff, and Roe. City Manager Patrick Trudgeon and City Attorney Rachel Tierney were also present. Councilmember Strahan was absent.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve Agenda

Schroeder moved, Groff seconded, approval of the agenda as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes: Etten, Schroeder, Groff, and Roe.

Nays: None.

4. Public Comment

Mayor Roe called for public comment by members of the audience on any non-agenda items.

Ms. Allison Jensen, Eldridge Avenue understood it was either the City Council or the Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission that discussed take out containers. She explained she brought some information from the *Climate Action Handbook*. She reviewed some take out container information with the City Council. She indicated as someone who is concerned with the environment and climate, she would like the City to consider banning take out containers.

5. Recognitions, Donations, and Communications

6. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

7. Business Items

a. Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission Joint Meeting with the City Council

PWETC Chair Bryant Ficek briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 10, 2023.

Commissioners Mueller, Luongo, and Hodder were also at the meeting.

Chair Ficek reviewed activities the PWET Commission discussed the past year, including Less Mow May, Sustainability topics, a transit update from the Met

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Council, and numerous staff updates. He thanked staff for the terrific work that has been done during the past year.

Commissioner Hodder explained the Met Council is also involved in their 2050 Transit Plan and cities and counties are providing input in that process.

Chair Ficek reviewed work plan items for the upcoming year. He indicated the Commission will continue to discuss speed limits and would like Council input. The Commission is also discussing the scope of the Commission as requested by the City Council and is in development of discussing a bike network plan as well as discussing the Eureka Recycling contract. He also updated the Council on the Roseville area transit system. He noted the Commission would also like to work with the Finance Commission on the City's future road maintenance. He thought that was some great collaboration between the Commissions.

Commissioner Hodder also explained the Commission discussed working with the Finance Commission on the sewage and lateral lines.

Councilmember Groff indicated he was very impressed with the work the PWETC is doing. He liked the discussions of the Commission and appreciated the detail in the report.

Councilmember Etten noted the amount of work the Commission has done is excellent and there are a lot of people thinking in different ways, which is what the Council has asked the Commission to do. He thought the only piece that might matter going forward and now rather than later is the bike network plan. He thought it was a great idea to be thinking about how to make that a cohesive system that connects to the surrounding systems.

Chair Ficek explained the first topic is speed limit discussion and if the City Council would like the Commission to move forward with this, he wondered how the City Council would want this topic brought forward to the public and to get other views beyond what was discussed.

Mayor Roe asked the Council if the Commission should move forward on this topic.

Councilmember Groff explained he liked the Commission discussion on where the Commission looked at other cities and what those cities have been doing. He thought that was helpful information but did not seem complete as of yet. He thought this was an ongoing thing, but he was not sure how far the City should proceed right now.

Councilmember Schroeder thanked the Commission for being at the meeting tonight. Regarding the speed limit, she wondered what is the purpose of doing this.

On the enforcement of this, she noticed the Commission wanted to talk to the Police Department. She wondered what the feedback was on this if there was discussion with the Police Department. She also asked what the benefits versus the costs would be and when other cities lowered the speeds, did that reduce the speeders or what was the outcome of that. She assumed the one piece has to do with crashes and asked what Roseville's percentage is.

Chair Ficek explained this topic came up initially with the Council and part of the reasoning behind it was simply the risk factors. If risks are looked at, in terms of being a pedestrian or bicyclist, there are no sidewalks on the local roads, so if the pedestrian or bicyclist is on the road and gets hit, chances of survival increase with lower speeds. That was part of the reason to start looking at it and seeing if this is something the City should do. In terms of accidents, there are not a tremendous number of them. The City is looking at a risk, also looking at priorities, is the City prioritizing walking or biking and how does that mix into the City's sustainability and climate. Those are all of the factors that can come into it. In terms of talking to the Police, it is a conversation the Commission still has to have. The Police Department did provide some information such as crash data. In terms of what other cities have seen, he is not sure if there has been a definitive view, some streets have gotten better, and some have not. He was still waiting for Minneapolis and St. Paul to provide information. Some studies have said that changing the limit does not matter it is what is the environment being driven through and for the street the City has, these are pretty wide open, if no one is parking on them. Back to the enforcement, because the driver is reacting to the environment, this will turn everyone into speeders. He noted there are still a lot of questions to the questions being asked, which is why he thinks this is still an interesting topic to pursue.

Councilmember Etten noted this was a partial piece of information, so he thought before this moves forward, the Council needs to see the kind of information that the PWETC moves forward with on this topic and before going to the public for viewpoints to see if the Council is ready to take that jump. He thought Chair Ficek listed off some pros and cons very well. He understood there are very few vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents in the City. He explained there are many factors into why there are accidents like this, and street speeds are actually a small potential factor. He explained when he looked at Minneapolis and St. Paul lowering their speed limits to 20mph, he has not seen any big change except on streets where there are a lot of cars on one side of the street. Then people already have slowed down to keep safe, so he did not know if that data is going to tell them much. He thought if a City similar to Roseville did a study, then he would think that was a more relevant connection. He would rather see what effects the City is having on current driver behavior before the City changes everything. He explained he was very skeptical in moving forward because of all of those pieces. He also thought by moving forward with this item, it would take away from discussion on some other very important topics.

Mayor Roe explained he was probably the most pro-changing of the speed limits but only for the residential streets in the City. He was not looking to do speed changes on collector streets. He thought right now the City does not do a lot to enforce speeds on the lowest level residential streets anyway and he was not suggesting the City change that from an enforcement point of view. He thought a huge part of this is the education aspect, the notion of how much safer it is for an individual to be a pedestrian or biker on a street and sharing the street with vehicles when speeds are just generally lower. He was not sure the City could only educate and not change the speed limit. He was not sure if the City could just change the speed limit and not do any education, but there may be a way to do it hand in hand.

Councilmember Schroeder agreed with Councilmember Etten that she would not go to the public on this at this point. There are too many unanswered questions that would be confusing for people. She also thought there were other great things the Commission needs to work on, are working on, and there are only so many resources. She thought there were some other things that the City could get more bang for the buck for the Commission to spend its time on.

Chair Ficek explained also on the list was looking into the ideal street design that the Commission could talk about and would be related to speeds. He wondered if the Commission should be looking at that and as roads and streets come up for reconstruction or maintenance, should they be looking at what is the ideal and can they move towards that.

Councilmember Etten thought it tied into another item on the list which is public safety related to transportation and infrastructure and he would be open to that. He wondered, since the City is using Municipal State Aid (MSA) dollars on roads, if the City is stuck with a certain street width or is that something that can be played with. He thought a lot of the roads in the City use MSA dollars for rebuilding and that reduces speed limits without other mitigating things.

Councilmember Groff indicated he was open to having some research done on it and would be very careful about changing street width due to snow plowing but it is something he would be interested in seeing the details on.

Mayor Roe noted there may have to be different standards for different purposed streets. He thought this got into thinking about different things that could be changed on the streets, such as parking. He stated it came down to how to apply the Complete Streets Standards to the roads in Roseville.

Councilmember Schroeder thought this fit into a number of pieces such as what the City is required to do, noting that what is fashionable today may not be fashionable in the future.

Chair Ficek thought the next topic could go in a different number of ways and is a relevant topic that really has not been explored. Those were just initial thoughts of where it could go. He asked the City Council regarding organized waste collection and if the Commission should look at this item again.

Mayor Roe explained that the last time the Council looked at that, it was determined at that time it was not a ripe issue in the community and that was kind of a quote from the survey provider at the time of the last community survey. He did not think a survey had been done since, so he did not know if the City knew where the public stood on that issue. From his perspective, he was not sure he wanted to initiate a conversation on that topic until there is some input from the community through another survey.

Councilmember Etten explained when the Council looked at this in 2021, it was the middle of COVID and was a hard time to reach out. The survey actually showed a dramatic reduction in support for organized hauling at that time. But, the addition of the waste facility that is shared with Washington and Ramsey Counties significantly has improved what is happening to the waste so for that reason, those things have not changed and he would not be ready to jump into it at this point.

Councilmember Groff explained he brought it up last time and it was not an easy lift, so he did not think there were the votes at the Council level to have the Commission look into that item again.

Chair Ficek asked the City Council if there is a need to look at regulating small electric motor vehicles, such as scooters. He did not know if there was a problem to solve regarding this.

Councilmember Etten did not think, at this point, it was a big deal.

Councilmember Groff explained he has not seen any issues in the City.

Commissioner Mueller explained there was talk on the Commission about rentable scooters and maybe discuss the possibility of those coming to the City and having regulations before that happened.

Councilmember Schroeder thanked Commissioner Mueller for specifying that because she would not want the City regulating mobility scooters.

Mayor Roe indicated it was early in the adoption of those business models and it did not seem like the City was getting a lot of those in Roseville to the extent of them being left in the City. Until there is more of an issue, he was not sure that needed to be looked at. He noted Councilmember Strahan had said in her notes that was not something she was in favor of taking a look at.

Chair Ficek explained as the Commission looked at Less Mow May, the Commission did look at the Ordinance and tried to get into the background of it. As far as the Commission could tell, there really is no reason for the eight-inch rule for lawns. The Commission thought it might be a good opportunity for them to look at the Ordinance, particularly in different ways a person might manage a yard, noting there could be variations.

Councilmember Etten thought the City had provisions for natural areas, grassy areas or Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are already there and the continued support and encouragement of those, either through the City's Ordinances or support from the Watershed Districts and things like that, are something the City should continue to look at. He was not sure he would want someone to say they were not going to mow the grass as there is a difference between having prairie grass, which is intentional, versus just saying a person does not want to mow an area in their yard.

Mayor Roe stated there are different chapters in the City Code, one is for nuisance issues and another chapter is for preservation and conservation. He thought it might make sense to look at the mowing Ordinance for maintenance.

Councilmember Schroeder indicated she did not have a problem with the Commission looking at the Ordinance to make sure everything is meshing together.

Chair Ficek noted what he took away from the Council's answer is to provide more education as the City goes into Less Mow May, making sure the City is looking at both, and making sure people know their options.

Chair Ficek asked if there are any other topics the Council feels the Commission should look at.

The Council did not have any other items for the Commission to review at this time.

Chair Ficek reviewed the recommendations the Commission had over the last year and asked for Council discussion on takeout containers.

Mayor Roe asked if this tied into the single use plastic bags as well or was there not a recommendation in that area.

Chair Ficek did not think there was a recommendation for the single use plastic bags and thought the recommendation was solely focused on takeout containers right now.

Councilmember Etten thought the Commission did a great job on this. He brought this topic up before the pandemic, then paused it during the pandemic, but he thought the City is at a point where it has been shown there are supplies available

and ways to tackle this. He also thought the recommendations he has seen and some of the information from staff suggested a tailored approach that is not trying to change everything right away. Rather, it is trying to make strategic moves on some of the plastics that cannot be recycled, things like that, and thinking about how the City implements this. He thought it was a very good plan overall and the City should move forward with it.

Councilmember Schroeder thought this is a good project to work on and she wanted to make sure the City is working closely with businesses and the restaurants on this because some of them are still suffering a bit from the pandemic. The Council wants to make sure that the City gets the businesses input while moving forward. She thought it was doable because there are a number of restaurants in the City that are already doing this and they would be good ones to reach out to and see how the business working it out. She noted this would be a really important step.

Councilmember Groff agreed. He indicated there is an educational component and bringing this in over a number of months was really wise, in his opinion. Reaching out to businesses is also really important. He thought the Commission's work was really good and he would support this.

Mayor Roe concurred and thought this may be a way to get into businesses and make the business aware of other aspects on how the business could be working with things including food waste. He stated the City needed to continue to think about the plastic bag side of it as well.

Chair Ficek reviewed the Sewer Service Lateral Revolving Loan Policy the Commission has talked about. He wondered if the Council would want them to look at this further as well as the Finance Commission.

Councilmember Groff explained this is a huge topic and most home buyers now have a sewer scope when purchasing because it is such a large ticket item. He thought it was a good topic to research.

Councilmember Etten explained he checked with the EDA staff and the City has several loan programs through the EDA that can be used for this purpose already.

Mayor Roe thought this might be an educational thing to do.

Councilmember Schroeder noted the Commission might want to meet with the EDA staff for education purposes to find out what that program is about.

Chair Ficek explained the last item on their list is the street name policy. He indicated west of Cleveland, the Commission talked about whether the road should remain named County Road B because it is no longer a County road. He noted staff brought forward a policy that can be enacted that would allow for that name change

based on discussion with the residents. The Commission thought that was a good idea.

Councilmember Groff knew from neighbors that is an interest to them so the Commission could reach out to residents and see if there is interest.

Councilmember Schroeder explained she liked the idea of moving beyond just this one issue to look at a policy on how this should be done. She also liked the idea that there would be parameters around that as well and have the residents petition for it.

Councilmember Etten indicated he was okay with it but did not think it would solve the problem that was stated. He noted a GPS system is not going to care what the name is; it is just directing the person to where it needs to go. He would be concerned about how the name would be selected and how that process works.

Mayor Roe gave feedback on the scope, duties, and functions draft from the PWETC.

- b. Consider a Resolution Providing Preliminary Approval of a Major Plat of an Existing Parcel as Ten Lots for Single-Family Attached Homes (Twinhomes)**
Senior Planner Brian Lloyd briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 10, 2023.

Councilmember Groff asked if staff has looked at the parking in the area. He knew the parking got bottled up when there were events in the park and that residents were upset with that issue.

Mr. Lloyd explained there really is not a whole lot to say, the proposal does accommodate all of the required parking in the Zoning Code within the site. He explained the parking shortage in the park is not the responsibility of the developer to remedy. The developer is doing what it can to accommodate all of the parking on site.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe offered an opportunity for public comment.

Mr. John Kysylyczyn, 3083 Victoria Street

Mr. Kysylyczyn indicated the only question he has is where the fence is between the private property and Rosebrook Park. He wondered if there is a fence already there. He asked what is separating the private property from the public property. He noted there is a swimming pool as well as a drainage pond on the upper right-hand side of the property and he presumed there is a fencing requirement depending on the size of the ponding. He indicated that is not the main point, there is kind of

a problem in the City in some places where there is a blurring between public property and private property and he would like to see that addressed up front because he did not want to have a scenario where five years later there is a question raised and then the taxpayers have to cover the costs of a fence dividing that when it should be borne by the developer.

No one else wished to address the City Council so Mayor Roe closed public comment.

Mayor Roe asked to what extent is there already fencing along that southern edge of the park and parking in the park.

Parks Director Matt Johnson explained what exists currently is small pine trees on the property line and this was part of the conversation with the Parks and Recreation Commission in its desire to preserve those trees to the extent that the City is able to do so. He was not aware of a City Ordinance that would require a neighboring property to install a fence.

Mr. Lloyd explained if this development was next to a low-density single-family home development, there would be a fencing requirement. This is a more intensive development so there are some screening and buffering built into those requirements but not for residents adjacent to something more intensive like park or commercial land. The City does not have a zoning requirement that fences be installed in that location.

Mayor Roe asked regarding the parking at Rosebrook Park, noting it seems like the adequacy of the southern parking lot for the park building, wading pool, and the northern parking lot for the use of the fields are not working too well. He asked Mr. Johnson address how parking has been working at the park. He did not intend to put the parking at the park onto this project, he just wanted to know if the City needed to look at parking related to Rosebrook Park and how it fits into the City's bigger picture.

Mr. Johnson reviewed with the Council the parking related to Rosebrook Park. He noted the neighborhood loves the park and all of the uses. He indicated when parking is added, greenspace is taken away, and greenspace is limited in the City. Also, there is more walk up use to this park.

Mayor Roe thought this may be something the City wants to help people understand, where other parking options are, especially for the southern field.

Councilmember Etten inquired if there was a fence around the wading pool.

Mr. Johnson indicated there was a fence around the wading pool.

Etten moved, Schroeder seconded, adoption of Resolution No. 12003 entitled, "Resolution Approving the Proposed Danny Boy Estates Preliminary Plat (PF23-02)."

Council Discussion

Councilmember Etten explained this property was rezoned several years ago with the intention of encouraging this type of development, a very needed form of medium density housing so he thought this was a great proposal. He appreciated that what could have been two more lots has been left for the water retention pond. He thought this was also an excellent step down, noting there is high density next to it, between that and the single-family homes, and a bingo hall on the south side and a parking lot. He stated this is a really good use of this space and a highly in demand housing source for the City. He also thought this was a much lower impact than the press gym that was there for years.

Councilmember Schroeder stated because of the garages and driveways, she thought there would be plenty of room for them to park so she did not think there would be additional parking pressure around this as much. She did not think there would be a noticeable difference in the number of cars coming and going either with how busy the park is.

Councilmember Groff explained this is the type of housing that is in demand and a good addition to this area.

Mayor Roe added there continues to be a concern in the neighborhood about access in and out of the neighborhood ever since the State closed down the more robust access at Snelling. He thought the City should continue to look at the access on the Fairview side and how that looks going forward.

Roll Call

Ayes: Etten, Schroeder, Groff, and Roe.

Nays: None

c. Review and Discuss Pending Future Agenda Items

City Manager Patrick Trudgeon briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 10, 2023.

Mayor Roe noted the first item is regarding inspection of single-family rentals that Councilmember Etten brought up previously. He asked Councilmember Etten for an update.

Councilmember Etten explained he had some discussions with staff about this and, for him, he would pull this off the list for consideration at this time because of how much additional staff time it would take. He noted it could potentially add a couple

of new staff members to do this work and require a large increase in fees to cover it or tax dollars to cover it. In that conversation, one of things clarified was that the City does send out something for posting in these rentals. He asked if the City would consider including a QR code with some of their primary, other than English languages so that folks can have better access, if needed.

Mayor Roe explained another item is reviewing the need of pet licenses, which was brought up by former Councilmember Willmus.

Councilmember Schroeder explained she talked to Mr. Willmus and the reason he mentioned this is that he talked to the Police Chief. This is not being enforced and he wondered if the City really needed to have it because at this point, what is the need. Before he thought it was to get pets with their owners, but most pets are chipped. His thought was why bother to have this requirement if it is not enforced and most people do not know a license is needed.

Mayor Roe reviewed the history and reasons for pet licenses in the City. He was not sure if a change to the ordinance is really needed.

Councilmember Schroeder thought staff should be the ones to decide and bring forward a request for the Council to act on.

Mayor Roe explained the next item is the Sister City relationship with an Indigenous Tribal Nation, which was initiated by Councilmember Strahan. She did not have much input in the information she sent to him regarding the meeting. In this one, she noted it is a good way to foster relationships although she would not consider looking into it until there was a new Diversity, Inclusion, Equity Manager. He thought this could be put at the end of the list and revisited.

Councilmember Etten agreed it could go on the list, but he was not sure what the City is gaining here.

Mayor Roe indicated this can be discussed further at a meeting where Councilmember Strahan is available to give her input.

Mayor Roe noted last year, some residents came to the City Council regarding regulating roosters. He did not think the City had such regulations, but chickens are allowed.

Mr. Trudgeon explained the City allows for chickens and regulates where the coop is located on the property. Traditionally, staff finds that people look into it and find it is a lot of work so there are not a huge number of chickens in the City that staff knows about. He noted this was brought up in 2022 and he has not heard anything recently from residents.

Mayor Roe thought this item should be a topic for a broader future Nuisance Code discussion.

Councilmember Etten explained that regarding off-sale liquor licenses, he was looking at penalties for on-sale versus off-sale. He understood that if a liquor store were to be suspended for a day, that would be a much bigger penalty than for an on-sale establishment. He would not be looking at suspension but a higher financial penalty to bridge the gap between those things and make sure the establishments understand the seriousness of a violation. He would like to look at the raising the financial impact, so it is more in line with the on-sale liquor fine.

Mayor Roe thought there was a limit in State Law of \$2,000 so if the City is already there, the amount cannot go up any further. He noted there may be other ways to address this and the Council could have some discussion on this, but someone would have to research this issue.

The Council directed staff to look at increasing the financial penalty for first time violations of age checks for off-sale licensees.

8. Council Direction on Councilmember Initiated Agenda Items

9. Approve Minutes

Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by the City Council prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions were incorporated into the draft presented in the Council packet.

a. Approve June 20, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes

Schroeder moved, Groff seconded, approval of the June 20, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes: Etten, Schroeder, Groff, and Roe.

Nays: None.

10. Approve Consent Agenda

At the request of Mayor Roe, City Manager Trudgeon briefly reviewed those items being considered under the Consent Agenda and as detailed in specific Requests for Council Action dated July 10, 2023 and related attachments.

Groff moved, Etten seconded, approval of the Consent Agenda including claims and payments as presented and detailed.

Roll Call

Ayes: Etten, Schroeder, Groff, and Roe.

Nays: None.

a. **Approve Payments**

ACH Payments	\$1,201,902.21
106838-107030	1,202,412.60
TOTAL	\$2,404,314.81

b. **Approve General Purchases or Sale of Surplus Items Exceeding \$10,000**

c. **Approve Resolution No. 12004 Awarding Contract for 2023 Drainage Improvement Project**

d. **Approve Resolution No. 12005 Requesting Conveyance of a Tax Forfeit Parcel, Farrington Estates Outlot A, From Ramsey County**

e. **Adopt an Ordinance No. 1634 Approving a Zoning Code Text Amendment to §1001.10, Definitions, and the Table of Allowed Uses (1007-2) of the Institutional District, and Adopt a Resolution No. 12006 Approving a Conditional Use, all in Support of an Environmental Service Center for Ramsey County Property Management and the Property Located at 1725 Kent Street (PF23-005)**

f. **Approve the Renewal of a Short-Term Rental License for 1885 Shady Beach Avenue**

g. **Approve the Renewal of a Short-Term Rental License for 257 South McCarrons Blvd W**

h. **Approve 1415 County Road B West Project Agreement and Pathway Easement Agreement**

11. **Future Agenda Review, Communications, Reports, and Announcements – Council and City Manager**

City Manager Patrick Trudgeon reviewed the July 17, 2023 EDA and City Council meeting, and the July 24, 2023 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Schroeder updated the Council on the League of Minnesota Cities conference she attended. She noted a number of changes are coming their way including cannabis regulations. She indicated the City of Roseville received a sustainability award and she congratulated everyone who worked on it.

Mayor Roe explained the City was awarded a grant for the pathway on Hamline, north of County Road C and is currently scheduled for 2025 but he heard staff is going to attempt to swap this with another pathway project for 2024.

Councilmember Groff reported the City of Roseville is celebrating 75 years and will be celebrating in Central Park on July 22, 2023.

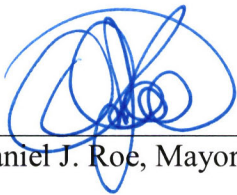
12. **Adjourn**

Schroeder moved, Etten seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 7:59 p.m.

Roll Call

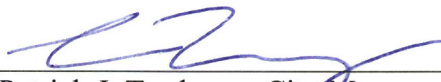
Ayes: Etten, Schroeder, Groff, and Roe.

Nays: None.



Daniel J. Roe, Mayor

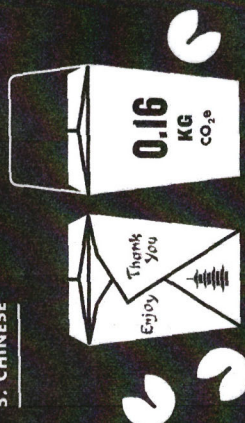
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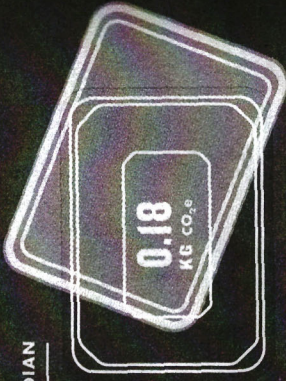
Patrick J. Trudgeon, City Manager

WHICH TAKEOUT CUISINE PACKAGING PRODUCES THE HIGHEST EMISSIONS?

5. CHINESE

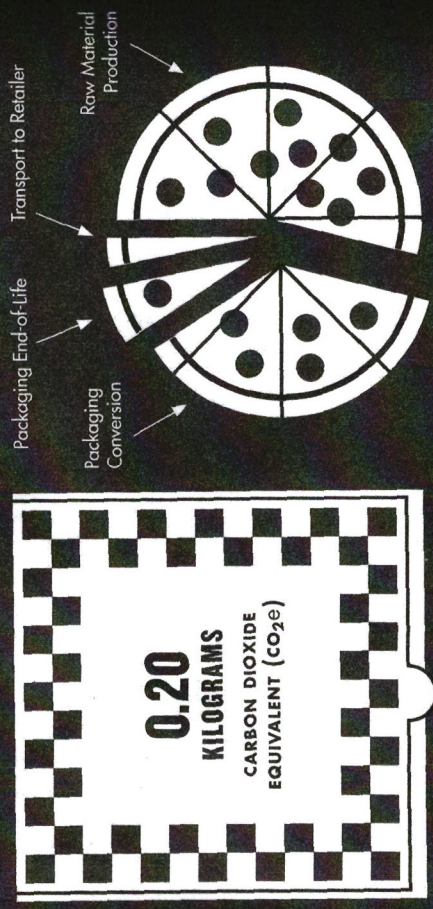


4. INDIAN



3. PIZZA

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH A PIZZA BOX



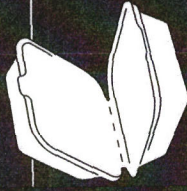
2. THAI



1. BURGER



MORE ROBUST RECYCLING OPTIONS FOR TAKEOUT PACKAGING COULD REDUCE THE GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL OF THESE PRODUCTS BY



ACTION 32

RESEARCH MORE THAN THE TAKEOUT MENU

The COVID-19 pandemic caused food delivery app use to surge in the United States. In 2020, an estimated 45.6 million people used food delivery apps. Between April and September of that year, these apps brought in approximately \$5.5 billion in combined revenue, which was more than double the revenue for the same period in 2019.

But does takeout pack an emissions punch? The answer depends on where you live and what you order, but on the whole, takeout and delivery generally come with a large carbon footprint, due primarily to the packaging, much of which can't be recycled.

An Australian study looked at the emissions associated with the packaging of five popular takeout foods—including pizza, burgers, and Indian, Thai, and Chinese cuisine—and found that burgers come with the most carbon-intensive packaging (not to mention meal choice!). Each year, the United States alone uses over 75 billion extruded polystyrene containers (think of those handy foam clamshell boxes), which represents 297 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

While there are different merits and climate impacts of different packaging options, a big part of the problem comes with the single use of the products and the lack of effective and comprehensive recycling programs. One study found that the implementation of more robust recycling options for takeout packaging across the European Union could reduce the global warming potential of these products by 33 percent.

While we can reduce our consumption, when we do opt for takeout we can do a few things to reduce our impact:

- Look for restaurants that use less, and more environmentally friendly, packaging. Believe it or not, there's an app for that! Jybe helps consumers find restaurants that use sustainable packaging.
- Be responsible disposing of your waste. Know your local recycling options, and if they don't yet accommodate the packaging from your favorite restaurant, advocate for change at the restaurant and with your waste management program.
- Finally, when you have the option to compost, please do.

▶ Next time you order takeout, what will you consider besides the entrees?