



MEDINA, WASHINGTON

AGENDA BILL

Monday, January 9, 2023

Subject: Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Education and Outreach Plan

Category: City Council Business

Staff Contact: Stephen R. Burns, City Manager

Summary

At the November 14, 2022, Medina City Council Meeting, Council directed staff to move forward with the following action items:

Item 1 - Public awareness, education, outreach and input specific to the current noise code.

Item 2 - Draft a plan for outreach education specific to gas-powered leaf blowers

City Staff is bringing forward the following proposal as a starting point to gather information and feedback from the community to determine the level of interest in restricting or banning gas-powered leaf blowers. Staff would like further recommendations or suggestions from Council prior to moving forward on this plan.

1. The “Public Awareness Plan” will use the following resources to remind our residents of the current noise ordinance:
 - a. Newsletter – recently the noise ordinance reminder was sent out in the December 2022 newsletter.
 - b. Social Media Outlets – ongoing.
 - c. Postcards – first quarter of 2023
 - d. Open House – tentatively set for Thursday, March 16, 2023, from 5:30pm to 7pm.
2. Use “**Engage Medina Platform**” to have items that include background from the last community forum, key dates, upcoming meetings, and events.
3. Outreach and Education Plan for Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers:
 - a. Survey – Anticipate sending out the first part of February 2023
 - i. Survey key stakeholders (Multiple languages – English, Chinese, Spanish and Russian):
 1. Residents
 2. Landscaping companies that serve Medina

- ii. Send postcard with QR code link to survey.
- iii. A-frame boards with QR code.
- iv. Flyers at City Hall, Parks, and Post Office.

4. Possible Survey Questions:

- a. Should the city put a ban on all leaf blowers (gas, battery, electric)?
- b. Should the city put a ban on only gas-powered leaf blowers?
- c. Should the city ban the following:
 - i. Commercial use gas-powered leaf blowers.
 - ii. Residential use gas-powered leaf blowers.
 - iii. Or both a and b
- d. Should the city further restrict hours of operation? (Currently landscaping noise is only permissible weekdays from 7am to 7pm, Saturday from 9am to 5pm, and Sundays/holidays it is not allowed.)
 - i. Yes
 - ii. No
 - iii. Other input/ideas (allow for a suggestion box).

5. Hold an Open House on March 16, 2023, from 5:30pm to 7pm to educate residents about current noise ordinances and gather feedback about banning or restricting hours of operation for gas-powered leaf blowers.

6. Presentation to Council with feedback from Survey and Open House at the April 10, 2023 City Council Meeting.

- a. At the April 10 City Council meeting, Council should expect to provide further direction to staff based on input from the survey.

7. The creation of Frequently Asked Questions page on the City Webpage - FAQs with the following:

- a. What is happening?
- b. Why is it happening?
- c. When is it happening?
- d. Who does this apply to?
- e. Are other cities banning gas-powered leaf blowers?
- f. Is the state or county planning to ban gas-powered leaf blowers?
- g. What is the current noise ordinance?
- h. What are the risks of banning gas-powered leaf blowers?
- i. What are the benefits of banning gas-powered leaf blowers?
- j. What are the differences between gas, electric, and battery-powered leaf blowers?

Attachment(s)

Budget/Fiscal Impact: Postcard and mailings for survey and open house - \$2,000. Central Services 2023 budget can accommodate this expense.

Recommendation: Council discussion and direction.

City Manager Approval: 

Proposed Council Motion: N/A

Time Estimate: 20 minutes