

Draft Minutes of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 31, 2015
General Services Conference Room – 311 N. State Street

Attending: Councilors Keith Nyhan (Chair); Amanda Grady Sexton; Gail Matson; Rob Werner; Mark Coen, and. Committee Members Melanie Dorion; and Arthur Aznive.

Absent and Excused: Committee Members, Matt Cashman and Mike Russell and Councilor Stephen Shurtleff.

Staff: Mayor Jim Bouley; City Manager Tom Aspell; Director of General Services Chip Chesley; Scribe Donna Alexander; General Services Business Manager Jeff Hoadley; Deputy City Manager-Finance Brian LeBrun; and General Services Solid Waste Manager Adam Clark.

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 PM by Chair Keith Nyhan. With 7 members in attendance it was determined there was a quorum to receive motions.

First on the agenda was approval of meeting minutes from 1/29 and 2/26 meetings. Council Amanda Grady Sexton moved approval of 1/29/15 meeting minutes; Councilor Rob Werner seconded the approval; all were in favor. Minutes of 1/29/15 meeting were approved.

Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton moved approval of 2/26/15 meeting minutes; Councilor Rob Werner seconded the approval; all were in favor. Minutes of 2/26/15 meeting were approved.

Next on the agenda was the outreach efforts planned. Chip Chesley spoke to the plan with a focus on the public benefits of Pay as you Throw. The public is in control of their waste and the City outreach will be emphasizing the positive attributes of Pay as you Throw (PAYT):

- You Tube video educating the public on how and what to recycle, how to increase recycling and decrease the need for purple bags. Video will be ready internally 4/9/15.
- The City will also promote the PAYT program through the water bill stuffers that all single family homes receive. These are expected out mid-April and the first week of May.

The committee and staff attending the meeting discussed the need for increased revenue sources. It was noted that the solid waste fund has been operating at a loss while drawing down fund balance to continue to support solid waste collection and recycling services. In order to avoid further reliance on the general fund, it was necessary to increase revenue from PAYT to support continued services. It was noted that the City had gone through a competitive bid price to secure the best price for collection and disposal services. It was discussed that the City has reduced operating costs by:

- Securing long term lower tipping fees from the private sector than the Co-op is able to provide,
- Having the collection contractor uses split body trucks reducing the number of collection trucks used to collect solid waste and recycling,
- Performing a successful pilot Christmas tree collection program,
- And most recently, developing a program to provide compost bins to our residents at costs.

Discussion continued about the best way to present the need for the PAYT price adjustment since the message indicated that the residents have done a fantastic job in reducing their solid waste volumes and increasing their recycling and yet there is need to ask for more money. Staff reminded the committee that the fund loses money every year and that by increasing the PAYT prices we close that gap. PAYT pays for trash and General Fund pays for recycling.

As discussion continued, it was unanimously decided that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee advise the City Manager to consider including a PAYT price increase of 25% in the regular budget process.

Amanda Sexton Grady moved approval and Rob Werner seconded. The recommendation passed unanimously.

Keith thanked everyone for their participation.
Meeting was adjourned at 5:20PM.

DRAFT