

ITEM NO. \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, IN COUNCIL,  
ASSEMBLED YOUR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE to Whom was  
Referred a POLICY SESSION Regarding the SOLID WASTE  
CONTRACT and to Provide Direction to Staff as Appropriate.

A Policy Session was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, beginning at 7:04 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, Illinois, with Mayor Jim Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been given.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were physically present: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;  
Absent: None.

Others present were: City Manager Patrick Urich, Assistant City Manager Chris Setti, Corporation Counsel Don Leist, City Clerk Beth Ball, Public Works Director Scott Reeise, Chief Deputy City Clerk Stefanie Tarr, interested citizens and members of the media.

**Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request for a Policy Session on the SOLID WASTE CONTRACT, with a Request for Direction.**

City Manager Urich provided an overview on the solid waste contract the City had with Peoria Disposal Company (PDC). He said in August of 2016 the City Council approved a 2.5 year extension with PDC, which was attached to the Council Communication. He said Staff was looking for direction on three items:

1. Is there anything that the City currently does not have in its solid waste collection service that Council would like to see prices on?
2. Would Council like to see an RFP sent out or have Staff negotiate an extension with PDC?
3. If Council wants Staff to send out an RFP, would they like to see the Public Works Department submit a response to compare services?

Public Works Director Scott Reeise said in order to achieve the goal of plenty of community engagement, a survey was made available online along with additional information through the City's website at <http://www.peoriagov.org/garbagecollection/>. He reviewed a handout entitled "Throwing Out Ideas – Gathering Public Input for Solid Waste Collection." He reviewed the method of achieving public input. He said the key take-aways were increasing recycling, extending the yard waste season, improving general education and public outreach, clarifying responsibility of the contractor versus the City, and no customer service complaints for PDC. He reviewed the survey methodology and results, overall satisfaction noting 88% were happy with the service and 82-90% encouraged more recycling. He said the City of Peoria was one of the only cities that had unlimited yard waste collection and that 31% of the respondents were willing to pay something additionally for yard waste. He reviewed the Key Insights from the survey data showing 4 out of 5 residents said they are very or moderately pleased with the service, 3 out of 4 residents said they supported increasing recycling frequency to every other week and 2 out of 3 residents indicated they would be willing to pay more for the service.

Council Member Grayeb requested an estimate of bringing garbage collection and recycling in-house. He remarked on the importance of looking at all alternatives along with bringing the service in-house. He also suggested adding blades to the trucks for snow removal in alleys especially.

Council Member Jensen said she would like to see the Request for Proposal and the new contract support more recycling. She said the RFP process was the fairest way to see what other companies and services were out there. She said she would like to see more recycling containers throughout the public along the riverfront, shopping centers, parks, and other public ways.

In response to Council Member Riggerbach's question about what an extra week of recycling would cost, Director Reeise said the range was approximately \$2.00 to \$3.00 per month in addition to the current bill. Council Member Riggerbach asked if there was a way to offset unlimited garbage pickup by giving each household one free garbage tote with an additional charge for extra garbage or bulky items. He asked if there was a way to encourage more recycling rather than placing an extra charge for additional recycling on the consumer. He asked to see ways or opportunities to incentivize the citizens to recycle more in order to cut down on their garbage output and asked if that could be a way to discount the solid waste portion of the garbage bill.

Council Member Moore asked if there was a way to exempt homes out of the garbage collection that were not producing garbage. She said there were a number of people refurbishing a home who were not living in that home who were not producing garbage but were still getting billed for it.

Mayor Ardis said there was a consensus on sending out Request for Proposals and to investigate whether there would be additional opportunities for recycling.

Council Member Montelongo said some communities allowed residents to rake their leaves to the street curb wherein City crew would vacuum those leaves up. He asked for a cost associated with that kind of service and whether that would be a viable option for yard waste.

Discussions were held regarding garbage being part of the property tax bill. Residents currently do not receive a monthly bill. In response to Council Member Grayeb's question regarding pulling the garbage bill from the property tax bill, City Manager Urich said that would be a challenge to separate the two for individual properties; however, he said he would look into it and include it in the report to Council.

Council Member Jensen suggested separating the City's recycling program from the garbage collection to see if a better cost scenario would be given.

Public Works Director Scott Reeise said there was the possibility of itemizing for different services. He said there could be a price for recycling, a price for yard waste and a price for garbage. He said there could potentially be three different vendors to provide the different services. He said utilizing different vendors would make it a bit more difficult to manage, noting that the public would need to be educated on the process in knowing who to call for certain services. He said that would be considered on the RFP.

Council Member Moore suggested that if garbage was placed on tax bills, then those houses that do not utilize the garbage collection could be reimbursed each year as a tax refund.

Council Member Grayeb requested a Report Back on all the alternatives and what it would cost on separating the recycling costs both in-house and outside vendors. He said the garbage contract was the biggest contract the City had in its budget.

Mayor Ardis said he would like discussions to be held on if the garbage contract should stay with PDC, if the cost would be cheaper for the garbage to be brought to the City's existing cells prior to taking it to Indian Creek. He also recommended collecting electronics several times per year.

The Policy Session closed at 7:35 P.M.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Ball". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Beth Ball, MMC, City Clerk  
City of Peoria, Illinois

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