

**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 Waste Collection Services.**

A Policy Session was held on Saturday, February 10, 2018, beginning at 9:15 A.M. at Peoria Public Library, LL2 Auditorium, 107 N.E. Monroe Street, with Mayor Jim Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been given.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members present: Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis –10; Absent: Akeson – 1.

Others present: City Manager Patrick Urich, Foth Infrastructure & Environment LLC Representative Josh Gabehart, Corporation Counsel Donald Leist, Public Works Director Scott Reise, Finance Director James Scroggins, Purchasing Manager Chris Switzer, Communication Specialist Stacey Peterson, City Clerk Beth Ball, Deputy Clerk I Dan Sullivan, interested citizens, and members of the media.

Waste Collection Services Policy Session

City Manager Patrick Urich presented a Power Point presentation discussing the City's waste collection services.

City Manager Urich provided some overview of the current waste collection contract, the largest single contract for the City of Peoria that terminates June 30, 2019. He stated the solid waste services affects all residents and visitors to the City of Peoria and serves approximately 40,000 units. He indicated the City of Peoria released a request for proposals (RFP) on August 11, 2017, and four respondents' submitted proposals by the deadline of Thursday, November 9, 2017. He said the four respondents were Advanced Disposal, City of Peoria Public Works Department, PDC Services, Inc., and Waste Management.

City Manager Urich provided information regarding the existing solid waste services, which consisted of the following services:

Residential Waste

Residential trash collection has every week pickup and covers just under 40,000 households. This service provides 35/65/95 gallon carts, which has the same cost for all three. Part of the residential trash collection includes bulky items that has an unlimited weekly pickup of bulky items.

Recycling

Recycling collection consists of a single stream recycling that requires a subscription based service through PDC Services, Inc. Recycling is a once a month pickup with a 95 gallon cart, which requires a \$50.00 deposit per recycling cart. Approximately 25% of Peoria households subscribe to the service.

Landscape Waste

Landscape Waste Collection occurs on a seasonal schedule April through December and has a weekly unlimited collection. Landscape waste is classified as grass, leaves, tree limbs and brush. Residents provide their own containers or uses approved bags for weekly landscape collection.

Other Services

Non-Residential Collection consists of stacked condos, City buildings and Peoria Public School's properties. Other contracted services provided in the City's waste collection contract was neighborhood cleanup boxes, tire disposal and removal of dead animals. Landfill disposal costs were also included as part of the contract.

City Manager Urich stated the Solid Waste Fee increases were as follows:

2017 - \$14.00 per month/\$168 per year

2018 - \$17.00 per month /\$204 per year

2019 - \$18.00 per month/\$216 per year

2020 - \$19.00 per month/ \$228 per year

2021 - \$20.00 per month/ \$240 per year

City Manager Urich stated the City of Peoria held initial public meetings in July of 2016 seeking feedback on current solid waste services and input for the future of solid waste services provided in the City. He explained in late 2016, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC was engaged to assist the City through evaluating current services, seeking public input and preparing for a potential request for proposals. City Manager Urich reported that extensive public outreach was conducted with Simantel Group Inc., who utilized an online survey, social media platforms, field distribution of surveys, promotion at public events and public meetings. He remarked that the survey had one of the highest participant total for a public outreach campaign. He stated information received from the public meetings discussed an increase in recycling, extension of the yard waste season, improvement of general education and public outreach, clarifying responsibilities of the contractors versus the City and no customer service complaints for PDC. Survey results were as follows:

Survey Results

Overall satisfaction with current solid waste services was 27% very satisfied, 52% moderately satisfied, 9% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 10% moderately dissatisfied and 2% very dissatisfied.

Support for increased recycling were as follows: 82% strongly support, 8% support, 8% don't care/no opinion, 1% opposed and 1% strongly opposed. The survey showed 23% were willing to pay an additional \$5.00 per month, 17% were willing to pay \$3.00 additional, 25% were willing to pay \$2.00 additional, 14% were willing to pay \$1.00 additional and 22% were not willing to spend any extra for increased recycling.

Support for extending yard waste season were as follows: 37% strongly support, 24% support, 31% don't care/no opinion, 7% oppose and 1% strongly oppose. The survey showed 8% were willing to pay an additional \$5.00 per month in order to extend yard waste, 5% were willing to pay \$3.00 additional, 18% were willing to pay \$2.00 additional, 22% were willing to pay \$1.00 additional and 48% were not willing to spend any extra for extension of yard waste. City Manager Urich stated the Key Insights from Survey Data showed 4 in 5 residents said they were very or moderately satisfied, 3 in 4 residents support increasing recycling frequency to every other week, and 2 in 3 indicate they would be willing to pay more for services. He said recycling had the greatest influence on overall satisfaction level and substantially fewer people would be willing to pay more to extend the yard waste season.

RFP Base Services

City Manager Urich indicated the RFP Base Services Components were based off the current solid waste contract and included the following: increased single stream recycling to all residents, recycling collection every other week, heavier Spring/Fall landscape waste schedule, direct bill to City for disposal fees, education requirements for vendors and more robust audit process.

Service Considerations – Trash Collection

City Manager Urich said weekly trash collection was the industry standard. He said trash collection services would be the same, but day of week may change for route efficiency and unlimited bulky pickup was a premium service, not provided for in many other communities. He indicated the bulky pickup would relatively be unchanged in the base proposal. City Manager Urich proposed a question to the Council if bulky pickup service should remain the same or be modified.

Council Member Moore voiced concern about households being charged for trash collection even though the property was vacant. In response to her concern, City Manager Urich stated trash collection services had always been designed that every household paid for services.

Council Member Montelongo expressed concerns with limiting billing for certain households, which could drive up cost for the entire City. He stated all properties still needed to be maintained, therefore, trash collection was needed.

In response to Council Member Oyler's question on the percentage of people who could opt out of billing for trash collection with regards to vacant houses, City Manager Urich stated several hundred houses were vacant and would be eligible for opting out of trash collection billing.

Council Member Jensen spoke about modifying the unlimited bulky item pickup. In response to Council Member Jensen's request, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC Representative Josh Gabehart voiced concern that limited bulky pickup would create problems with illegal dumping. Mr. Gabehart indicated the City Public Works Department spent \$130,000 to clean up illegal dumping in 2017. City Manager Urich stated bulky pickups could be limited or the number of

items could also be limited. He said his recommendation would be to have unlimited bulky item pick-up.

Council Member Grayeb said he supported Council Member Moore's request to limit billing of vacant houses regarding trash collection. He requested the City Manager provide bid financials soon to allow the Council the opportunity to review each proposal.

Council Member Ruckriegel voiced concern that the limiting of bulky service could lead to increased code violations. He voiced concern on exempting vacant houses from paying for trash collection. He inquired if houses for sale would qualify for the same exemption. He stated any exemption would raise costs for other residents.

Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC Representative Josh Gabehart stated most homes had bulky item pick-up approximately five times a year.

Council Member Riggerbach suggested maintaining the current billing system to all properties, unless a large savings would occur. He voiced concern regarding limiting bulky item pick-up. He questioned if the provider would do the billing.

Council Member Cyr stated one of the Council's goal was to have a clean City so citizens should not be able to opt out of garbage collection services. He also stated if citizens could opt out of paying taxes or other services, it would create a big problem.

Mayor Ardis voiced concern with an opt-out feature for vacant homes because he felt citizens who go south for the winter would also request the opt-out feature since homes would only be occupied half a year. He suggested that, since there were two years left in the contract, the City Manager could come back with options.

Council Member Moore requested the City begin discussion on an opt-out feature along with changes to the bulky waste service. She suggested the City and disposal companies utilize the public access channel to educate citizens about solid waste services.

Council Member Turner stated trash services would be similar to fire protection requiring everyone to pay for services, even if they don't utilize the service. He said vacant houses didn't opt-out of police and fire services, therefore they shouldn't be able to opt-out of trash service either.

Council Member Oyler spoke on the need for direct billings of trash services. He voiced concern about limiting bulky items, which could lead to illegal dumping and clean up efforts would affect the City's budget. He said the Council needed to know the numbers to analyze costs before a decision was made.

Council Member Montelongo discussed the need for solid waste companies to do more for less. He voiced his concern regarding the opt-out proposal for vacant houses. He recommended the garbage companies utilize new technology like smart garbage trucks. He expressed concern how this would affect the landfill and open dumping.

Council Member Jensen stated the City had been fighting garbage collection at vacant houses for years. She said she would like more data on the number of homes an opt-out program would affect. She stated she would like a comparison of what other communities do regarding vacant properties along with billing for trash collection. She requested information from the audit report regarding bulky items.

Service Considerations – Recycling

City Manager Urich stated recycling every other week was the industry standard, but recycling every week has a higher cost. He said 90% surveyed supported increased recycling with a strong education component required. He stated the base proposal had universal single stream recycling.

Mayor Ardis stated Peoria residents want increased services, but seemed to be reluctant to pay for additional services. He said the Council needed to know the number of residents who would be willing to pay for recycling.

Council Member Ruckriegel requested public input to find out why people don't recycle.

Council Member Moore indicated increased recycling would reduce trash in the landfill and ultimately reduce cost.

Council Member Riggerbach stated he supported universal recycling at a minimum of every other week. He suggested the deposit required for the recycle toter be built into the RFP, which could encourage more participation in recycling. He said he would like a breakdown of products being recycled.

City Manager Urich explained one reason cost has risen was because of the tipping fees at the landfill. In response to the City Manager's comment, Council Member Cyr recommended farmers be allowed to purchase yard waste at the landfill for compost, which could also be a revenue source for the City.

Council Member Jensen stated she supported universal recycling and it should be part of the RFP. She questioned why recycling had a low participation rate. She requested quarterly reports on the amount of recycling along with the types of products being recycled and the amount of money the providers made off recycling. She also requested that smaller recycle bins be explored.

Council Member Turner suggested the City continue using private vendors for solid waste collection rather than City taking over collection services. He questioned how much it would cost the City to buy trucks and equipment.

Council Member Oyler said the Council needed to know how Landfill #2 would be used if recycling increased. He said fees were increasing now for Landfill #2 and there was a need to go into Landfill #3 soon.

Council Member Ruckriegel requested historical data on the revenue source the haulers collect from recycling.

City Manager Urich said he would continue working with the bidders to drive costs down.

Service Considerations – Yard Waste

City Manager Urich discussed yard waste collection, which he stated seasonal yard waste collection was built into the base bid and no clear industry standard was in place for yard waste collection. He suggested yard waste collection/schedule could be modified for efficiency and cost.

Council Member Grayeb suggested the City look at other community's yard waste policies in order to compare other services.


Council Member Riggerbach remarked on the Neighborhood Associations requesting garbage cans for their neighborhoods. He stated currently Neighborhood Associations must maintain garbage cans placed in their neighborhoods and he wanted to know if the next contract could include the emptying of these neighborhood trash cans by the desired vendor.

City Manager Urich stated 79% of residents surveyed supported a cost increase for increased recycling, less support for yard waste. He said services currently offered could be reduced, but not favorable based on public feedback. He indicated the current fee structure for the next four years will not align with extension of existing contract or new services, if the City selects sole vendor. He said the City Council could increase solid waste fees or costs could be aligned with fee structure if separate vendors were used. He remarked that residents would have a new Storm Water Utility Fee on June 1, 2018.

Council Member Moore voiced concern regarding how the rising cost of trash collection, along with the Storm Water Utility Fee, would impact residents of the 1st District.

Mayor Ardis complimented the work of Peoria resident Steve Tyler for his efforts in leading a litter pickup campaign. He said Mr. Tyler organized a downtown trash pickup program that meets once a week with a group of volunteers to remove litter from the downtown area. Mayor Ardis stated he hoped this mindset would spread throughout the community to encourage other residents to take pride in their neighborhoods and participate in cleanup efforts.

The Policy Session closed at 11:22 P.M.



Beth Ball, MMC
City Clerk, Peoria, Illinois

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