

Environmental & Franchise Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes, 2/25/11

Present: Michael Halley, Daryn Hamilton, John Revolinski, Jeff Clawson, Daryl Bisgard

Points of discussion

Halley reported that he contacted both Waste Management and Connelly Inc to obtain information regarding their policies for large item trash pick-up. Only WM responded and explained that any kind of flat-rate tag/sticker program will not work for them without including it in an official contract with the City. Committee agreed that now is not the time to make any further alterations to either the residential trash or recycling contracts between the City and WM, so the idea of a tag program must be dropped. Instead WM offered the following guidelines to large item trash pick-up:

- Waste Management will provide special collection services of bulky waste on an on-call basis.
- Collection must be scheduled with contractor 24 hours prior to their regular residential collection day.
- Resident must call contractor to schedule their bulky item pick-up.
- Collection will occur on their regular trash collection day.
- Contractor will negotiate fee with resident for special bulk collections.
- Fee will be based on items and quantity set out for collection.

Halley also spoke with City Code Enforcement Officer Tom Baker about the city's policy for residents who place their trash by the curb moving forward. Baker stressed the need for a widespread public education campaign to let residents and property owners know that the annual trash pick-up program has ended. This would include announcements in all local newspapers, on both local radio stations, and fliers in water bill mailings. Baker is working with administrator Clawson and city attorney Morrissey to develop a streamlined policy for anyone who places their trash by the curb. They will be given 15 days to remove any illegal trash before the city takes action. Baker doesn't expect this will be a big issue if the city gets the word out that the trash pick-up is no longer happening.

Revolinski reiterated the city's goal of significantly reducing the amount of material we send to the SEMCO landfill, and re-emphasized that we want to encourage residents to reuse as much as possible. Part of the educational campaign should include information on the local businesses and organizations who accept used items, including but not limited to Habitat For Humanity ReStore, Goodwill, Bargain Box, My Lucky Day, Agapeland's Closet, etc. The city website could include a page with all of this information, as well as a link to the Freecycle/Buycycle Facebook page.

Hamilton summarized the proposed new city policy regarding large trash pick-up as follows:

- The city will no longer pick up residential trash (brush will still be picked up annually).
- Residents with trash bulky trash items must contact local waste haulers directly to arrange pick-up.

Recommendations/Actions

- Committee will recommend that the full council officially discontinue the annual curbside trash pick-up.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Halley