

Present: Michael Halley, Daryn Hamilton, John Revolinski, Ed Malloy, Jeremy Olsen, Matt Cross, Lacey Jacobs

Points of discussion

Jeremy Olsen presented Waste Management's proposal for a new city contract for recycling and trash pick-up. The main change is to a single-stream recycling system where every house is given a 96 gallon WM bin (with wheels and a lid) in which residents put all of their recycling material unsorted. WM would then pick up recycling on an every-other week schedule. This could result in an 80% increase in recycling participation, a 41% increase in pounds of recycling per home per month, and potentially divert 22 tons per month from the SEMCO landfill. The bi-weekly pick-up will also reduce the pollution from the WM trucks. The pick-up schedule and a list of acceptable materials would be included on the bin lid.

The second part of the proposal involves WM providing every house with either a 48 or 64 gallon trash bin (with wheels and a lid). This would ensure that residents are complying with the proper volume limits and could potentially encourage more recycling if those limits were reduced slightly. One possibility is a two-tiered program with a small financial incentive for residents to use the 48 gallon bin instead of the 64 gallon, though the exact structure of this system is yet to be defined.

Committee members asked many questions and discussed the pros and cons of these changes. In the end the committee decided to support the switch to single-stream recycling and requested that Olsen present the same information to the full council at the June 28 meeting. Once the council approves the main themes of the new contract the details can be worked out and the new single-stream recycling structure will take effect on October 1 of this year.

Halley gave a brief review of the status of the city's Energy Efficiency Project. Roger Vorhies of Schaus-Vorhies Contracting has been hired as the Construction Manager for the project. Once the engineering work is complete he will begin taking bids for the work. At this point the project is on budget and only slightly behind schedule. The first energy efficiency upgrade will be insulating the roof of the Fire Department garage, which should be complete by the end of June.

Recommendations/Actions

- Committee will recommend that the Council accept Waste Management's proposal to move to a single-stream recycling system and use WM's bins for trash collection, and to explore an option to offer a two-tiered trash bin option (48 or 64 gallon sizes).

(Respectfully submitted by Michael Halley)

Signature of Chairperson_____