

THE CITY OF FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers
10025 Bunkum Road, Fairview Heights, IL

Committee Members in attendance – Aldermen Josh Frawley, Pat Baeske, Pat Peck, Denise Williams, Mayor Mark Kupsy, Ex-officio

Committee Members absent – Anthony LeFlore

Other Aldermen and Elected Officials in attendance – Aldermen Frank Menn, Ryan Vickers, Brenda Wagner, Harry Zimmerman, Bill Poletti

Staff in attendance – Public Works Director John Harty, City Clerk Karen Kaufhold, City Attorney Andrew Hoerner, and Police Lt. Jim Krummrich

Recorder – Jill Huffman

Public Participation

None

Approval of Minutes, January 8, 2019

Motion and second to approve minutes were made by Aldermen Williams/Peck. The motion carried by voice vote and was unanimous.

Personnel Committee

Denise Williams, Chairman

No Report.

Public Services Committee

Alderman Pat Baeske, Chairman

SINGLE SOURCE WASTE HAULING

The Mayor commented that surrounding communities contract for single source trash hauling. He reviewed the benefits of contracting with one trash hauler including eliminating the number of trucks on the City's roadways, cost reduction for residents, providing city-wide recycling for residents, reducing and eventually eliminating bulk trash currently provided by the City, therefore, allowing manpower available for other tasks and saving the City money in dumping fees.

The Mayor relayed that originally, the City was proposing a three-year agreement, however, due to the investment in new trucks by Aspen to service the City, both parties agreed on a four-year agreement with two additional four-year extension periods.

The Public Works Director displayed a presentation regarding the benefits of contracting with a residential single trash hauler in the City. He stated that the City had finalized an agreement with Aspen Waste Systems of Missouri, Inc. which was distributed to Committee and City Council, along with the proposed resolution of support for single-source trash hauling by City Council and proposed resolution to enter into an agreement with Aspen. Also distributed were the bid results from November 26, 2019, as well as a flyer describing benefits to the residents and the City. The Director pointed out that yard waste will now include a 96-gallon cart plus ten additional biodegradable yard waste bags instead of seven.

The Director introduced the Chief Operating Officer of Aspen Systems and the General Manager, Aspen Systems, St. Louis.

Questions/Answers:

One bulky item is allowed per week. Does a resident contact Aspen in advance for a bulk item pick up? Yes, and there are guidelines on the one weekly bulky item.

Will this contract include pick-up from the City's facilities? Yes.

When will the road analysis results for street wear and tear be provided to City Council which was asked for six months ago? This could be accomplished by hiring a consultant.

Has the City of O'Fallon been contacted to see if they have resultant savings since switching to single source? No. Explained if a road gets 20 years of normal wearing surface and there is 80 percent reduction of truck volume on that same roadway, there would be less wear on the surface.

Where did the \$50,600 figure result from? The Public Works Director explained that, basically, he took 35 asphalt lane miles in the City at a 2-inch wearing surface and multiplied that by 5,280 (feet in a mile) again by 13 feet (the width of a lane) divided by 9 (square yards). Multiplied the square yard figure by \$11.00 (cost to install 2-inch overlay per square yard). That number total divided by 20 years of life and 15 years of life is approximately \$50,000. This estimate does not include concrete nor oil and chip roadways. Mayor commented that the City of O'Fallon has been providing single source for some time. It was replied that they should have some numbers to back up savings on overlay and touting a number is not accurate. The Mayor stated that the savings for the City is eliminating bulk trash pickup and applying those manhours to street maintenance tasks, but the real issue is saving the residents money and providing a higher level of service.

Even if the \$50,000 were to be removed as a savings, would it be safe to say this would be in lieu of the amount currently spent on bulk trash? It would contribute to the overall savings. The Mayor stated it would be the approximately \$200,000 for bulk trash in the budget, plus the \$50,000 of wear and tear on the road surface that would not be spent.

This money could be used elsewhere. The Mayor reiterated, this is being proposed to save the residents money.

A representative from Stonewolf stated that there are two streets in the subdivision which are not included in the City's street system where these heavy trash trucks roll across every week. The subdivision spent \$25,000 last year, and budgeted another \$25,000 this year, for street repair on these two streets, therefore, believes \$50,000 is a reasonable approximation for street repair.

Yard waste will include one 96-gallon cart and ten bio bags per week? Yes.

Since there are three different service options, will the contractor collect on three different days or on one day? The pickup of all three services will be done on the same day with three different trucks in a section of the City. The only exception would be if there is a bulky item that would need to be picked up with a different truck and may be scheduled for a different day.

Questioned some of the items on the small bulky item list in Exhibit B would fit in a cart; is this if they don't fit? The list is for items that are in excess of what would fit in the cart.

Questioned if there is an occasion when a resident would have boxes to dispose of, would the resident be charged extra? There is one bulky item allowed each week and more than that a charge would be incurred.

Would a resident have to call Aspen for an additional bulky item to be picked up? Resident would have to call Aspen for one extra bulky. If it is a large item, such as a couch or recliner, resident would need to call Aspen to schedule for pickup. If it is a smaller item, such as an end table or lawn chair, that item would be picked up as allowed in the one bulky item per week.

Questioned about boxes, from perhaps the holidays, if that is considered bulky or overflow? If they are broken down they could go into recycling. Questioned if the boxes would need to be broken down or can a box just be set out? It was stated that they could be broken down and put into trash. It was commented that not everyone would have room in their trash for broken down boxes.

Questioned that residents are not going to break down boxes so how is that going to work? It was stated that Aspen doesn't want the residents to put out anything they want.

It was stated that an Aspen resident in the City put out their Aspen cart and also had another container. Aspen picked up the Aspen cart and emptied the other container as well. Is this allowable? Replied that this is discouraged due to the weight of another container that cannot be picked up by the truck and the safety of the employee. Therefore, no other container should be used. It was relayed that a resident can obtain an additional 96-gallon cart from Aspen for \$4.75.

Regarding the Stonewolf Subdivision – part of which are villas; currently there is one bill from the current hauler that is sent to the Homeowners Association. Can this continue with Aspen? Yes, as long as Aspen has the address.

Can a resident call Aspen for a one-time pickup of yard waste rather than subscribing to that service for a period of time? No, a resident can sign up for a quarter of a year for yard waste pickup but not for a one-time pickup.

Can a resident change services or options at any time? Trash and recycling can be changed at any time with the exception of yard waste, which can be changed by a quarter of time.

What if a resident pays for a quarter of recycling and decides not to continue with that option, could they be reimbursed? Yes.

Asked about signing up? Will Aspen still be doing this? The Mayor stated that the City will work with Aspen. A mailer will be sent to residents who will then identify what services they desire. A couple of days will also be scheduled for sign up at the REC. For senior discount, identification will be required stating you are a homeowner and over the age of 65. After that, throughout the year, residents will sign up at the Clerk's Office.

What if a resident has paid ahead for trash hauling with Aspen or another hauler; will there be a reimbursement? It is believed that the law states if a hauler is not licensed to pick up in the City it would be a criminal offense to have collected money and not provide service. Even if there is a contract between the resident and hauler? The City, in the beginning of year, notified the current haulers stating that the City would be contracting with a single-source hauler and was given a conditional license to operate in the City until single-source hauling takes effect. Haulers will be given a 60-day notice, once the date is known when single-source will be implemented. The current haulers' licenses will expire and they will not be permitted to pick up in the City.

Will a trash hauler be permitted to charge a resident a cancellation fee? This, also, will not be permitted.

Clarification that a resident can sign up for one quarter for yard waste removal and then discontinue that service without any charges? Yes.

Regarding the Bulky Items – all three categories on Exhibit B are at no cost for the first item and then another item would fall into a category? Yes.

In the agreement, it states that any demolished construction materials are not allowed, but then Exhibit B lists toilets, bathtubs, and vanities that are part of a remodel. Are cabinets or other furniture pieces, countertops allowed? How specific is this? Aspen does not pick up construction materials as it is hard on the driver and the truck. It is permissible, for perhaps a bathroom remodel, to put out a toilet one week and a vanity the next week. No drywall as a bulky item.

Cart replacement is based on ordinary wear and tear, not neglect. Does this include weather situations, as an example, the lid blows off during a wind storm? This would be considered normal wear and tear.

Regarding Support and the three minute telephone hold time by Aspen. Does this necessarily have to be in the agreement? Most of the time, there is not a problem with response time.

Questioned extraordinary increases after two years instead of three years? Regarding fuel, it was explained that once fuel reaches an annual average rate exceeding \$3.50, rates would be adjusted. It was explained that a resident that has Option 4, trash pickup only, for \$10.40; consists of disposal cost, truck cost, fuel cost, tipping fees, wages. Therefore, an increase would only be applied to the fuel cost, or 10 percent of the total rate. Therefore, the rate would not be raised to \$17.00, but could raise by approximately 20 cents. Aspen stated that the annual increase stated in the agreement is three percent. The extraordinary increases are costs that are out of Aspen's control. It was questioned if fuel costs rise, but then there is a point when the costs decrease, will the rate be adjusted to a lesser amount? Aspen stated that this is reviewed annually, therefore, if rates would drop for just a couple of months, it may not fall below the \$3.50 trigger. It was questioned if the rate increase would show on the resident's bill as a fuel increase? It will show as an adjusted rate.

Regarding the disability discount, as it reads, it's for 65 years of age or older or head of household that is disabled. Is there a way to add, if a dependent has a disability, that the family would be able to receive the discount rather than just the head of household? This would create savings for anyone with a disability. It was stated that the head of household with a disability would mean that the resident cannot work, therefore, saving them some money. It was questioned what if the parents cannot work because they are the caregiver of the child? Discussion ensued. The Mayor stated that the City, through its agreement with Aspen, is reducing the costs for trash hauling services significantly to its citizens. It was stated that adding this would make it a very unique contract and questioned if Aspen has encountered this? They responded no. It was questioned to Aspen what their thoughts are regarding the disability for anyone in the household? Aspen replied that it is the City's decision. The Director stated that the Request for Proposal was a baseline starting point to receive competitive bids from the haulers. Aspen stated this has not been discussed. When there is a single-source hauler for a City, most of the rules have to be in place to prevent abuse and it would be the City's responsibility to prove that the criteria is met to receive the discount. Questioned alderman if he knows of families who have disabled family members who are in need of a discount to which he answered, generally, he knows of a few. He stated he has been working with the Land Use and Development Director on grants and opportunities that include all levels and there are programs for parents with special needs children and programs for adults with disabilities and does not like that the agreement states head of household and that it also states the household cannot have more than two people for the discount, as well, because that is limited. It was suggested that the agreement remain the same and research for grant money that can be given to lower income residents, not just special needs residents. It was stated that the City should look at different avenues for disabilities.

It was questioned if Aspen is "stuck" with problem residents? Yes, unless they don't pay their bill.

The Mayor stated the City negotiated the lowest possible rates for waste services for the residents, and additionally, negotiated to give senior citizens and disabled a 15 percent discount. We could have not included additional discounts in the agreement. If the City would renegotiate the agreement, the rates would probably increase and discounts would be given to more people. The discount for disability will be validated by the City

and information forwarded to Aspen stating the resident meets the requirements for the disability discount. A resident cannot call Aspen to obtain the discount.

Can a resident utilize a currently owned smaller trash container along with the 96-gallon cart instead of obtaining another 96-gallon cart for \$4.75? The smaller container would not exceed 150 pounds. If there are bags on the ground or a bag in another container, the resident will be charged. The cost of the cart is \$4.75 which is not just the cart itself but also the disposal cost of the garbage that is in the cart.

How is the City going to notify the other haulers that the City will be going to single-source trash hauling? The Mayor stated that the City advertised for bids and the other companies know they were not low bidder for the services.

There have been some instances in Stonewolf Subdivision when a hauler has been discontinued at a residence and another contracted. It's been weeks before the original hauler picked up their carts. Can the City help with enforcement of the picking up of other waste haulers carts? There is a restriction in the subdivision that carts are allowed to be out only overnight. The Mayor replied that a notice will be sent to the original hauler and follow up through the legal process.

In Stonewolf, there are 84 villas, for which one bill is paid through the HOA, will a list of seniors be required so Aspen knows how much to charge the HOA? A list of verified senior citizens residing in the villas will be provided to determine a cost to the HOA.

Do customer service calls go directly to Aspen? Yes.

What percent of Aspen's customers actually subscribe to the second cart? It is very low.

If boxes do not fit into the cart, should the resident bind them together and sit them alongside the cart? They can be flattened and put on top of the lid of the cart.

It was questioned, if gutting or emptying a house, is the resident required to use Aspen for a dumpster? No.

All three services are on one day – trash, recycling, and yard waste with three trucks? Yes. To clarify, the City will be divided into five zones and each zone will have their service day.

Asked about where Aspen will take their recycling? It is taken near Chicago.

Is the recycle cart the same size as the trash cart? Yes, 96 gallons for all three services.

How many trucks will Aspen be ordering? Three.

It was stated that the City needs to be sensitive when asking residents to change their method of what they have done in the past regarding trash removal, as to the manner of how residents have taken out their trash, what residents have put in their trash, how it has been picked up, and the ability to pick who they wanted to pick up their trash. And, now the City is dictating to the residents who they can and can't use.

It was commented that originally, it was believed the City was headed toward a monopoly and residents are not going to want that, however, in talking with so many of the residents, they want single-source trash hauling because its less expensive and satisfies what they need.

The Mayor stated that he believes Aspen provides a high level of service, will be reasonable to the residents, and the residents will save money. If the City receives complaints from the residents, the City will communicate this to Aspen. He stated that, typically, residents who complain are the residents who abuse the service. The City requested bids for a fair level of service at a good price and received very good rates from Aspen.

Motion and second to forward a Resolution to City Council with recommendation of approval the Resolution of Understanding, Commitment and Support for the City to contract with a residential single-source trash/solid waste, yard waste and recycling hauler by Aldermen Williams/Frawley. The motion carried by voice vote and was unanimous.

Motion and second to forward a Resolution to City Council with recommendation of approval the Agreement with Aspen Waste Systems, Inc. of Missouri for single source waste hauling in the City of Fairview Heights by Aldermen Williams/Frawley. The motion carried by voice vote and was unanimous.

The Mayor stated that after approval by City Council, Aspen will place their order for trucks. Aspen is being told that truck chassis will be done in a couple of months and the bodies will take about four months, so they anticipate equipment will be delivered late summer to early fall. The tentative implementation date for service is October 1. Language is included in the agreement that should the equipment arrive at an earlier time, the services could be implemented sooner.

LIBRARY, NORTH WINDOWS - CONTRACT

The Director stated that bids were received yesterday for the removal and repair of the north windows of the Library which are leaking. Slayden Glass was the only responsive bidder with a bid of \$15,583. The Director had budgeted \$30,000 in the CIP for the repairs and recommends Slayden be contracted to perform this work and begin the work when the weather permits.

Motion and second to forward a Resolution to City Council with recommendation of approval the contract with Slayden Glass, Inc. for \$15,583 to make the necessary improvements to the Library, north windows by Aldermen Peck/Williams. The motion carried by voice vote and was unanimous.

MARKET PLACE STREETScape, II, H & S – TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT

AND

MARKET PLACE STREETScape, II, H & S – RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION

H & S owns the Weekend's Only quadrant at Market Place and Commerce Drive. The City needs to acquire approximately 1100 feet of right-of-way and purchase temporary construction easement for the construction of the roundabout at that location. TIF3 will be funding the easement and right-of-way acquisition where \$150,000 has been allocated. This is one of four property owners who are involved in this project. The City's consultant is working with the State who administers the appraising and negotiating process.

Motion and second to forward a Resolution to City Council with recommendation of approval the purchase of temporary easement from H & S Investment Group, LLC for \$2,250 for the construction of Market Place Streetscape, Phase II by Aldermen Peck/Williams. The motion carried by voice vote and was unanimous.

Motion and second to forward an Ordinance to City Council with recommendation of approval the purchase of right-of-way from H & S Investment Group, LLC for \$15,000 for the construction of Market Place Streetscape, Phase II by Aldermen Peck/Williams. The motion carried by voice vote and was unanimous.

MOTOR FUEL TAX RESOLUTION

The Director presented the annual Motor Fuel Tax Resolution which informs the State the amount of funds the City will be utilizing from its allotment for salt purchase, street lights, traffic signals, right-of-way mowing labor and street sweeping labor. The Director is increasing the request this year to \$520,000 because the salt dome at the City's garage is in need of a new roof. He believes the current roof to be 25 years old. This is a motor fuel tax eligible expense. He also intends to pay for some street supervision from the MFT. It was questioned if the salt, stored in the dome, affects the roof and perhaps this could be considered when looking at replacement.

Motion and second to forward a Resolution to City Council with recommendation of approval the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Motor Fuel Tax Resolution fund request of \$520,000 by Aldermen Williams/Frawley. The motion carried by voice vote and was unanimous.

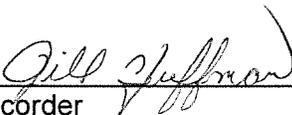
DIRECTOR'S REPORT – PROJECT UPDATES

The Director of Public Works presented his written report to the elected officials for their review.

The Director highlighted that St. Clair County plans on improving Sullivan Drive from 300 feet south of Frank Scott Parkway during this summer's construction season.

Adjournment 8:28 p.m.

Submitted By:



Recorder