

**MINUTES
CITY OF ORMOND BEACH
CITY COMMISSION
RECYCLING WORKSHOP**

January 23, 2019

5:30 p.m.

City Commission Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bill Partington called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present were Mayor Bill Partington, Commissioners Dwight Selby, Troy Kent, Susan Persis and Rob Littleton, City Manager Joyce Shanahan, Assistant City Manager Claire Whitley, City Attorney Randy Hayes, Planning Director Steven Spraker, Public Works Director Gabe Menendez, Public Works Operations Manager Kevin Gray, and Finance Director Kelly McGuire.

II. DOWNTOWN STEERING COMMITTEE

Ms. Joyce Shanahan, City Manager, stated the City Commission had approved the process by which the downtown master plan would be updated at the prior meeting.

Mr. Steven Spraker, Planning Director, stated that part of the process approved was creating a steering committee that would conduct workshops for feedback. He noted that some members would come from various advisory boards, while the other members would be appointments from the Commission. He stated the final approval of the committee would occur at the February 19, 2019, regular meeting and the workshops would start in March 2019.

Mayor Partington confirmed that staff needed all appointments and board applications before the February 19, 2019, meeting; whereby, Ms. Shanahan stated that all names and applications were required as part of the resolution that would be approved.

Mayor Partington questioned the downtown boundaries; whereby, Mr. Spraker stated downtown started at Orchard Street on the west, went to the ocean on the east, and included approximately 300 feet north and south of Granada Boulevard.

Commissioner Selby nominated Mr. Lewis Heaster, either as his Zone 1 appointment or as the downtown business owner appointment.

Commissioner Kent nominated Ms. Dorian Burt as his Zone 2 appointment.

Commissioner Persis nominated Ms. Katie Tripp as her Zone 3 appointment.

Commissioner Littleton nominated Ms. Ashly Rose, either as his Zone 4 appointment or as the downtown business owner appointment.

Commissioner Persis stated she would serve as the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) appointment; whereby, all other Commissioners agreed.

Mayor Partington summed up the nominations still needed by February 19, 2019: the downtown resident appointment, the downtown business owner appointment, and the Mayor's appointment.

Ms. Shanahan requested that all appointments, including name and e-mail address, be sent directly to City Clerk Lisa Dahme, so all information could be added to the resolution for final approval.

Mayor Partington suggested a brief discussion item on the first regular meeting in February, in case there were multiple appointments for the remaining positions. He noted that way they would be in compliance with the Sunshine Law.

III. REVIEW OF CITY'S RECYCLE PROGRAM; MARKET, RATES, AND SERVICES

Ms. Shanahan noted that Mr. Ken DeForest, Waste Pro representative, was in the audience. She stated that staff was looking for general direction on the recycling program, and would bring any decisions back in resolution form at an upcoming meeting.

Market

Mr. Gabe Menendez, Public Works Director, stated that due to market conditions Waste Pro of Florida, Inc. ("Waste Pro"), the city's solid waste and recycling service provider, was seeking a \$77.50 per ton processing fee increase from Ormond Beach. He noted the recyclable markets had undergone significant changes recently, which was prompting service providers to seek rate increases to cover operational losses.

Mr. Menendez reviewed market conditions, noting that in 2016 the United States exported 16 million tons of material, \$5.2 billion worth of commodities, to China. He detailed the recycling markets affected by China's new policy banning certain commodities. He stated that 64 percent of recyclables in 2017 offered a reasonable return, but that number dropped to only 35 percent in 2018.

Mr. Menendez explained that residents sent many items for recycling that were not acceptable due to contamination; whereby, Ms. Shanahan stated that a cardboard box was recyclable until pizza was added, which would contaminate the box.

Mr. Menendez noted the following for the City of Ormond Beach: 17,861 monthly recycling customers; a 93 percent recycling participation rate; an average of 278 tons of monthly recycling material and 1,499 tons of solid waste material; and a \$3.50 residential recycling monthly service fee per residential unit. He stated the current contract with Waste Pro would expire on September 30, 2019, but had a five year extension available.

Mr. Menendez stated that newspaper, cardboard, steel cans and aluminum were currently marketable items, whereas only #1, #2, and #3 plastics were marketable, but at reduced values. He noted that unrecyclable material, glass bottles, and other plastics were not marketable, but made up 52 percent of the recycling collected in Ormond Beach.

Commissioner Selby asked if the percent of collection was based on weight; whereby, Mr. Menendez confirmed that was correct.

Mayor Partington questioned what entailed unrecyclable material; whereby, Ms. Shanahan stated it was contaminated with food or was not considered recyclable, such

as a pizza box or egg cartons. Mr. Menendez noted that if one item was contaminated, all items were considered contaminated.

Rates

Mr. Menendez reviewed the annual costs for solid waste, yard waste, and recycling collection for Ormond Beach and the surrounding cities.

Commissioner Selby asked if all cities mentioned were single-stream, meaning the items were fully commingled; whereby, Mr. Kevin Gray, Public Works Operations Manager, stated that most were single-stream, but a few cities had multiple sorting bins.

Commissioner Selby, Mr. Menendez, and Ms. Shanahan discussed sorting options. Mr. Gray reviewed the initial recycling program details from 1992, when the program started.

Collection Options

Mr. Menendez gave the collection options between the City of Ormond Beach and Waste Pro, and requested feedback on the Commission's preference:

1. Continue recycling – maintain the program, increase education, and markets are currently available. This option would approve the \$77.50 per ton fee requested, add a \$1.54 recycling increase, and increase the total monthly service cost to \$21.85 for residents;
2. Continue recycling, eliminate glass – maintain the program, increase education, reduce processing fee, and eliminates non-marketable material. This option would approve the \$77.50 per ton fee requested, add a \$1.24 recycling increase, and increase the total monthly service cost to \$21.55 for residents;
3. Suspend service (ten service routes) – maintain the program, increase education, six month increment evaluations, keep the ten service routes in place but change them to solid waste pickup, reduces the long-term landfill capacity, but retains the ability to resume recycling. This option would eliminate the \$3.50 recycling fee but increase the solid waste fee by \$3.50, and maintains the total monthly service cost at \$20.31 for residents;
4. Terminate service (nine service routes) – keep nine service routes in place but change them to solid waste pickup, and reduce long-term landfill capacity. This option would eliminate the \$3.50 recycling fee, but increase the solid waste fee by \$2.34 solid waste, and decreases the total monthly service cost to \$19.50 for residents;
5. No changes to current contract – continue current fee structure, existing contract will not be renewed for five year extension, and issue RFP immediately for October 1, 2019, contract date. This option would have no cost changes and maintains the total monthly service cost at \$20.31 for residents.

Commissioner Selby and Commissioner Kent asked for clarification on Option #3, and believed the total monthly service cost should decrease instead of remaining the same; whereby, Ms. Shanahan explained the details involved that contributed to the changes.

Commissioner Selby asked for further clarification on Option #3 and Option #4; whereby, Mr. Menendez and Mr. Gray highlighted the differences between them.

Commissioner Kent noted the options were confusing as they did not fall under a common sense approach.

Mayor Partington questioned when the option chosen would take effect; whereby, Ms. Shanahan stated it would start sooner rather than later.

Commissioner Littleton asked if other cities had suspended service and were still paying the same rate; whereby, Mr. Menendez stated that some of the cities had agreed to pay the fee increase, while others had not made final determinations at that point.

Ms. Shanahan stated that Daytona Beach Shores had suspended the recycling service, while New Smyrna Beach was continuing on a six month evaluation and had not passed the additional cost to their residents. She agreed that it did not make sense for the total service to cost the same when changes were made.

Commissioner Persis would be disappointed to see recycling suspended or terminated, as local children were excited to help their environment by doing it.

Commissioner Selby emphasized that education was key, if they kept the recycling program. He stated the city should ensure all residents were recycling the appropriate materials.

Commissioner Kent asked if Waste Pro could take everything straight to the landfill instead of sorting the items first under Option #5; whereby, Mr. Menendez stated that was possible since that option did not approve the fee increase to cover the sorting.

Commissioner Kent asked if that could be already happening and if it was legal; whereby, Mr. Randy Hayes, City Attorney, thought that Waste Pro was operating within the parameters of the contract with the city. Ms. Shanahan noted that staff kept track of Waste Pro's procedures, and everything was handled correctly.

Ms. Shanahan discussed options for educating the residents on recyclable materials.

Discussion ensued between the Commissioners on the options they preferred versus the ones they did not prefer. They asked if the pricing was negotiable; whereby, Ms. Shanahan stated it was not.

Commissioner Littleton, Commissioner Kent, Commissioner Persis, and Mayor Partington preferred Option #2.

Mayor Partington wanted feedback from residents before the item would be approved in a regular meeting, but thought they would choose Option #2 also.

Commissioner Selby preferred Option #5, with Commissioner Kent joining him, but after more discussion both Commissioners decided to support Option #2.

Ms. Shanahan asked if the city would absorb the cost involved or if it would be passed to the residents; whereby, Mayor Partington stated it should be passed to the residents.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Transcribed by: Wendy Nichols