



MINUTES
Committee on Public Service
Tuesday, May 21, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Hall, Conference Room, 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Peter Spadafore, Chair
Council Member Kathie Dunbar, Vice Chair- excused
Council Member Jeremy Garza, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Greg Venker, Assistant City Attorney
Andy Kilpatrick, Public Service Director
Kerrin O'Brien
Sean Hammond, Michigan Environmental Council

Public Comments

No public comments.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 21, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Discussion

Mr. Kilpatrick informed the Committee of their work on a plan to replace the current blue bags with something else. He stated they are looking at a low cost alternative, in a cart style. This would allow them to know where the customers are and not have to drive every street looking for the blue bags. This program will be phased out over 6 months and they plan to stop selling the blue bags at the end of June, but still will pick up for 2-3 months. The City will have to buy back from the retailers who currently purchased them to sell and will provide a credit for those residents that have them at home when they get their new cart bill. Council Member Garza asked what will happen in six (6) months if someone still puts out a bag, and Mr. Kilpatrick stated they will still pick up bags, but will set a deadline or tentatively September. This will all be part of the plan they are working on. Currently it is not cost effective for City trucks to drive every street looking for bags, and they are investigating even going every other week for the carts. This could bring down the cost for everyone, but won't know the costs savings until after the first year. Council Member Spadafore asked how much it would cost to bring the City

fleet to capacity, and Mr. Kilpatrick stated that trash and recycling use the same truck and yard waste is a different truck, but trash fees are competing with private companies, so that would subsidize if this was giving the City more. The program should be self-supporting with the rental rates. Long term with the liabilities, the City subsidizes all enterprise funds, but with the fleet they will have to look at all the ages of the trucks, upkeep, etc. Council Member Spadafore asked if in the road and environmental aspect if there are more savings, and Mr. Kilpatrick acknowledged that in the second phase they will look at trash operations since there are currently 3 licensed haulers along with the City and they need to see how to have a single provider in an area, because it does not make sense to have multiple trucks on streets all in the same day.

Council Member Spadafore asked Mr. Venker if there is a City Ordinance that speaks to the use of blue bags that will need to be amended, and referred to Section 1060.

Mr. Kilpatrick did note that before they begin the program they will educate the residents on the program and once they no longer have bags they can look at the true cost for the customers to make operation more efficient. Council Member Spadafore asked why they are were looking at carts vs. stickers on bags. Mr. Kilpatrick stated that stickers are a liability issue, but a cart they can pull away from the curb, and if you do not put a cart out, the program could do a technology of you only pay when it is picked up. He noted that some carts do have a RFID tag on them now for inventory, but they could put the technology on the truck arm to see when picked up and also to see if they have paid before they pick up. Council Member Spadafore inquired into the cost and timeline on making that technology possible, and Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed they are currently testing it just on the carts. They are going to eliminate the bags first as step one. Other things to consider for cost savings would be yard waste pick up, which currently runs from April through November, they could designated a shorter period of time and then take in drop off. Council Member Spadafore then asked if they have considered food waste collection and Mr. Kilpatrick stated they currently do commercial on a limited basis.

Mr. Hammond spoke on behalf of what the State is doing in discussions, changing the topic to "material management" and considering a "pay as you throw" model. Ms. O'Brien asked if the City was considering sticker. Mr. Kilpatrick stated they had not, but Granger is selling bag tags, but the City is not changing their bulk sticker program. Ms. O'Brien spoke in support of the RFID program.

Council Member Spadafore asked Mr. Kilpatrick for an update the Emterra project site. Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed they are still looking at sites.

Council Member Spadafore then spoke in support of a discussion on a long term vision for materials management in the City, a program to incentivize for reducing costs such as the RIFD tags. There is a business side and what do the residents want, and if the City is going to get out of the business of trash collection, then there needs to be a thought on why consider buying more carts. Council Member Spadafore then informed everyone present that there are concerns for what the cost will do to impact the residents. Mr. Kilpatrick stated the cart will hold two kitchen size bags, but not two blue bags, so that would be 32 gallons every other week. If the process does not work, they can go back to bags, but in the end they will always pick up. Council Member Garza asked for a rough estimate on the cost, Mr. Kilpatrick noted that a small cart (32 gallon) would be \$123. He was then asked about City staff that will be impacted, and he stated there are six (6) employees but it would not impact their jobs. Lastly Council Member Spadafore asked if they have considered a low income rate, and Mr. Kilpatrick stated they could look into it.

Other

Council Member Garza asked for an update from Mr. Kilpatrick on a meeting he had with the Public Service Department on Schafer Road. Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed they went on site, one neighbor cleaned out their culvert and the departments did an elevation evaluation. Council Member Garza then asked for a traffic study on Ellendale Drive, and Mr. Kilpatrick stated he would look into the last time one was done.

Council Member Spadafore informed Mr. Kilpatrick that the bike lane safety measures that were discussed at the last meeting were added as budget policies for FY2019/2020 and adopted Monday, May 20, 2019.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak,

Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved: June 4, 2019 _____