

CITY OF CHARDON SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2018

Service Committee Members present: Andy Blackley, Dave Lelko

Also Present:

Debbie Chuha, Councilman
Dan Meleski, Councilman
Becky Repasky, Secretary
Randy Sharpe, City Manager

Jeff Smock, Mayor
Steve Yaney, Planning and Zoning
Administrator

Others Present:

Chris Black
Dan Bowyer
Marc H. Burr
Donna and George Catavolos
Patrick Corrigan
Vince Crawford, Waste
Management
Robert Cromwell

Dave Kidder, Republic Services
Rick Lutz, Ohio Valley Waste
Sarah Matthews, Rumpke Waste
and Recycling
Sue Schade
Brad and Hannah Sekas
George Tackla

Andrew Blackley, Chairman, called the Service Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lelko made the motion to approve the April 10, 2018 minutes; with the following correction:

- Under the heading ‘Claridon Road, E. King Street and Thwing Road Improvement Project’, paragraph four; change E. King Street to Claridon Road.

It was seconded by Mr. Blackley. All approved.

DISCUSSION ON BID SPECIFICATIONS FOR SINGLE HAULER TRASH AND RECYCLING

Mr. Blackley asked the audience to raise his or her hand before speaking and state his or her name and address. He asked for the hauler companies present, to comment, if needed.

Mr. Yaney presented the Committee and residents with a PowerPoint presentation on Staff’s research and recommendations. Mr. Yaney said according to the National Citizens Survey, conducted in 2017, 40% of the returned surveys rated exploring the service as essential; and 32% rated it very important to explore the service.

Mr. Yaney explained he and the City Manager met with various hauler representatives and the City Manager from Middlefield to collect information.

Mr. Yaney said the available types of service are: Fully Automated (all items must fit into provided tote); Semi-Automated (tote plus additional waste on the side); and Bulk Waste (which is none, unlimited or restricted waste per week). Staff recommends the Semi-Automated service, plus one (1) bulk item per week. Staff recommends having one (1) day only; but no preference on which day and pick-up between the hours of 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 a.m.

Regarding billing, Staff recommends billing from the contractor.

Regarding term and price increases, Staff recommends a five (5) year contract, plus a two (2) year mutual option with a flat rate annual increase. Staff recommends a 10% discount for seniors, sixty (60) years of age and older.

Mr. Yaney explained the three (3) available bid specification options: trash only, trash and recycling, and trash and recycling subscription. Staff recommends bidding for trash and recycling; while requesting bid alternates for trash only and trash and recycling subscription. A question from the audience was asked what bid alternates are. Mr. Sharpe explained additional quotes provided by the hauler which will allow Council to decide which option to move forward with.

Regarding tote size, Staff recommends the 96 gallon for trash and 64 gallon for recycling; with the option of a 64 gallon tote for trash and additional totes.

Regarding bag service, Staff recommends offering a \$5 monthly contract fee plus \$5 per bag. Mr. Yaney said the cost per bag can increase or decrease and there is an option to recycle. Mr. Lelko asked if a resident currently uses the bag service, the resident only pays for the bag. Mr. Blackley said yes.

Mr. Yaney reviewed what additional services can be included in the bid specifications: annual trash day, yard waste, brush, Christmas tree disposal, vacation holds, vacant properties and advertising programs. Mr. Lelko clarified that currently, Christmas trees can be collected with the brush collection.

Mr. Blackley commented that the Service Committee will review the bid specifications which will then be presented to Council in June or July; and Council can decide what, if anything, will be done. Mr. Lelko said the Service Committee is directed to work on the bid specifications only; not to make a decision. Mr. Blackley encouraged feedback from the residents for the bid specifications.

Robert Cromwell of 120 Huntington said he has no issues with the proposal but does have a few concerns that can be addressed. He said he likes the idea of a five (5) year contract so that prices will not increase after the first year. Mr. Cromwell said he feels recycling may not want to be included because of uncertain economic variables that involve China. He suggested securing a fixed price for recycling or making it an option priced out separately. He asked for the option of one (1) month trash suspension for vacations. Mr. Cromwell would like the contract awarded locally.

Donna Catavolos of 220 N. Hambden said since moving to Chardon, she and her husband are impressed with City services and how issues are handled. She said he prefers to choose their own hauler because she wants to call and speak with a representative that is local and not in another state such as Texas or Michigan. She commented that a single trash hauler is not going to limit truck traffic. She suggested conducting another survey to review what residents really want. Mrs. Catavolos expressed concern over the timeline presented. She suggested awarding the contract to a local company.

Mr. Blackley commented that if the contract goes out to bid, there could possibly be a point system for locally owned companies. He explained this is not a done deal; the Committee is just exploring the topic. Mr. Lelko explained the timeline presented is only a possibility and is not locked in.

George Tackla of 119 Goodrich Ct. asked if an individual is already in an annual contract, will the customer be able to get out of the contract. Mr. Tackla asked if the annual Trash Day will be ended.

Mr. Blackley said one (1) bulk item per week will be permitted however, the City can keep Trash Day. Mr. Lelko commented he looks at Trash Day as a recycling program because many items are picked up before the actual day. Mr. Yaney explained Trash Day can be a bid specification along with weekly, one (1) bulk item pick-up.

Mr. Lelko asked if brush would be collected weekly, year-round. Mr. Sharpe said only May through September. Mr. Blackley asked if the yard waste would have to be bagged. Mr. Sharpe said it will depend on the hauler; some want the yard waste bagged, some do not.

Chris Black of 334 S. Hambden said he is in favor of the single trash hauler service. He said the cost savings will be significant. He would like to see curbside recycling. Mr. Black said the difference between the service provided

and haulers will be minor. He said to him, customer service is the most important thing and would like clear answers from the hauler. Mr. Black suggested having a smaller, wheeled tote for seniors. He said he would like smaller totes as well because it will be easier to handle, and take up less space. Mr. Black suggested offering recycling education to explain what items are acceptable and to encourage recycling.

George Catavolos of 220 N. Hambden said the survey that was sent out only went to 1,500 recipients and Chardon has approximately 5,100 residents; and of that 1,500 only 9% of the surveys were returned. He said no value can be attached to that and a better way of getting resident input should be done. Mr. Catavolos said customer service is the most important factor and wants to support a local hauler.

Mr. Sharpe explained the survey was sent to 1,500 households; and there are approximately 2,000 households in Chardon. He said the survey is a statistically, valid survey and the purpose was only to see if looking into the service was important to residents.

Marc Burr of 116 South Street said he does not like the government interfering with his decision to choose a trash hauler. Mr. Burr said he likes the idea of an individual choosing and calling who they want.

Vince Crawford of Waste Management acknowledged the concerns of the residents regarding the company. He explained Waste Management is a local company that has invested money into the community such as: Chardon's high school football score board, Chardon Rotary, Chardon Chamber of Commerce, Geauga Leadership, Big Rigs, 4th of July celebrations, Chardon Living Memorial Park and others. He said he and his family live in Chardon as well as others that work for Waste Management. He said yes, it is a national company, but hard work is done here in Chardon.

Katie Arnold of 315 South Street said she currently pays \$3 per bag for the bag service and would like to see smaller options included in the bid specifications. She suggested including composting education in addition to recycling education. Mr. Tackla agreed he would like the idea of composting materials. Mr. Sharpe said the City would not include that as a bid specification, but would offer instructions how to do it on one's own.

Patrick Corrigan of 123 Center Street explained he is an employee of Waste Management and resident of Chardon. He said it is a world class company that practices safety every day. He encouraged residents to come to the shop to meet with the employees and see that it is a family oriented environment. Mr. Corrigan said if a resident has an issue, to approach the driver to have it resolved immediately.

Mr. Cromwell congratulated the Committee and Staff for undertaking a hard decision and encouraged the Committee and Staff to do what is right for the citizens.

Mr. Lelko asked if it is feasible for a resident to opt-out. Rick Lutz of Ohio Valley Waste said no because a contractor is bidding out the entire contract. He explained the contractor is trying to determine manpower needed as well as a certain amount of trucks to offer an accurate bid.

Mr. Lelko asked what if a person disposes waste legally. Mr. Lutz said a permit is needed to transport waste. Mr. Blackley asked if a small portion of residents wanted to participate and did not opt-out, would there still be an option to bid the contract. Mr. Lutz said no. Mr. Lutz said if there is an issue with the hauler, the City can hold the contractor accountable and end the contract. Mr. Blackley said it is not easy to end a contract. Mr. Sharpe said language can be added that if waste is left, the Street Department will pick it up and the City will bill the hauler.

Mr. Sharpe asked if the haulers suggest trash pick-up only or trash and recycling pick-up. Mr. Lutz said trash and recycling because it is important to the environment. Mr. Lutz said educating the public on recycling is very important. Mr. Sharpe clarified that trash only would be cheaper. Mr. Lutz said yes.

Sarah Matthews of Rumpke Waste and Recycling said she does not suggest the opt-out option because the hauler is looking to secure a better price to serve the residents. She said people cannot opt-out of water-sewer service or

any other utility. Ms. Matthews said it will open the door to illegal trash dumping and could contaminate the environment. She said this could also be a health and zoning hazard because an individual may hoard the trash to save money. Ms. Matthews suggested offering a minimal user (bag) service. She said the \$5 per bag is a high cost.

Mr. Lelko asked if any of the hauler representatives have current contracts that offer opt-out options. The hauler representatives said no.

Mr. Lelko asked if any of the hauler representatives have contracts that include businesses and condominiums with residential pick-up. Ms. Matthews said the Village of Loudonville does. Mr. Lelko confirmed with Mr. Sharpe that option was never considered. Mr. Sharpe said correct.

Mr. Sharpe asked if a four (4) week vacation hold would be an issue for any of the haulers. The hauler representatives said no.

Mr. Sharpe asked if the residents that have already paid for an annual contract be prorated the money for the remaining months. The hauler representatives said yes.

Mr. Sharpe asked if a smaller container would equal a lower cost. Mr. Crawford said it would be a small price difference. Mr. Lutz said customers eventually end up with larger totes.

Mr. Catavolos asked if the haulers receive revenue from recycling. Ms. Matthews said yes, because recycling is a commodity; but her company has a recycling facility. She explained there is a cost risk with recycling. Ms. Matthews suggested a flat monthly fee with a small annual increase.

Sue Schade of 112 Huntington said she could not carry the 95 gallon tote; but putting a bag out the night before could create an issue with animals. She requested a smaller container option be looked into.

Mr. Lelko said two (2) 95 gallon totes will be problematic because of size and he would like to see smaller size options.

Mr. Blackley commented that the subscription option can offer more flexibility because an individual can recycle themselves or through the City.

Mr. Crawford suggested a 65 gallon container for recycling. He explained 25% of what ends up in the recycle container, is not recyclable materials. He suggested the best price for the residents is to offer trash and recycling.

Mr. Smock asked if recycling would be every other week or monthly. Ms. Matthews suggested every other week and to use a 96 gallon container.

Mr. Blackley asked if the cost of the bags is set. Mr. Yaney said no; the \$5 listed, is the cost in Middlefield, and residents go into Middlefield City Hall to pick-up the bags. Mr. Sharpe said he would prefer residents be able to go to the grocery store to buy the bags. Ms. Matthews said the Sticker Program allows residents to use any bag and the sticker demonstrates the service is paid for and the hauler knows to pick it up. Mr. Smock asked if the bid specification is setting the price of the bag. Ms. Matthews said that is generally bid by the hauler. Mr. Lutz said the Sticker Program is nice because the sticker can go on any item. Mr. Lelko asked if the stickers are all the same cost. Mr. Lutz said no, it depends on the item. Mr. Sharpe said Staff recommends one (1) bulk item per week which could potentially eliminate the need for Trash Day. Mr. Sharpe said another option can be no bulk items be permitted and the individual would have to call for a price and still offer Trash Day; or Trash Day can be a part of the bid specification.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – none

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – none

ADJOURN

Mr. Lelko made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Blackley seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

ANDREW BLACKLEY, CHAIRMAN

Rebecca Repasky, Secretary