

Environmental & Franchise Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes, 5/21/15, City Hall Council Chambers

Present: Michael Halley, Daryn Hamilton, Doug Flournoy, Mike Harmon, Darrel Bisgard

Points of discussion

Halley reviewed the discussion from the most recent Service Agency meeting regarding the recycling center contract with Connelly, Inc that expired last year. The current contract is for \$44,500/year, with the County paying 40% (\$17,800) and the City paying 60% (\$26,700). City's only revenue source to pay our share is a \$3/month recycling center fee billed to all commercial utility accounts. Currently we have 451 commercial accounts paying the additional \$3 fee. That revenue stream equals \$1,353.00/month or \$16,236/year. Currently the additional \$10,464/year the city pays for the recycling center is subsidized by non-commercial recycling fees.

The Service Agency will meet again on June 15th to discuss this issue further. Committee recommends changing the percentages starting July 1st to City 40% and County 60%. Now that city residents utilize the large, single-stream recycling containers they need the recycling center less than residents in the unincorporated area of the county, who don't have curbside pickup. Committee would also like to find out when the current extension of the contract ends and encourage the county to put out a new contract (with all the same provisions) for competitive bidding.

Motion by Flournoy, second by Hamilton; unanimously passed.

Burning Ordinance

Committee reviewed data provided by Iowa Department of Public Health and discussed possibility removing Wednesdays from the open burning schedule to allow people with asthma and other respiratory issues a break from three days straight of burning. Hamilton predicts that state law will soon prohibit all yard waste burning in every city, since the DNR is already encouraging cities to move in that direction. It was agreed that removing one day per week would still allow time for those who choose to burn to do so, while providing some relief to residents who cannot go outside on days burning is allowed.

Move to exclude Wednesdays from days burning is allowed during the months of April, October, and November by Hamilton, second by Flournoy; unanimously passed.

No progress made on amending the proposed divestment resolution.

Recommendations/Actions

Propose to Service Agency changing percentages starting July 1st: City 40% County 60%.

Remove Wednesdays from days of weeks yard waste burning is allowed under Ordinance 16.04.030.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Halley