

CITY OF GRAYLING
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 27, 2019

I. Meeting called to order by Mayor Forbes at 6:30 P.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Members Present: Karl Schreiner, Clinton Ross, Kimberly Hatfield, Roger Moshier and Heather Forbes

Members Absent: None

Vacant Seats: None

Also, in Attendance: Doug Baum, City Manager, Lisa Johnson, City Clerk/Treasurer, Erich Podjaske, Zoning Officer, and general public (See list)

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

A. City Wide Recycling – Public Input

Zoning Officer Podjaske explained that the city put out RFP (Request for Proposals) for trash pickup and recycling. He also explained what happened and why the city lost its past recycling option. He explained that American Waste was awarded the trash contract due to a savings to the city. Council asked to have a public input meeting to see if the residents of the city wished to have recycling and also how this would be paid for if the residents were for recycling. He then explained the two options the city has received for recycling, curbside or drop off locations within the city.

Mark with American Waste explained it would be twice a month if the curbside was selected and he also explained what items could be recycled. He also mentioned if curbside was selected all residents would receive a 96-gallon tote for their recyclables.

Kristen Lietz asked where the recycling goes to be processed.

Mark mentioned they have vendors in the northwest and they deal 0% with China. He mentioned some stays within Michigan to be recycled.

Member of the public asked if businesses were included in this.

Mark said no, but he could provide that service for an additional fee.

Gary Wilder mentioned that he has seen in other communities large dumpsters and they get overfilled and trash put in them.

Mark mentioned that large containers were only one of the options and that curbside is the preferred option by most.

Cathy Lester asked about Gaylords system

Mark said they have 6 locations and that it seems to be going well, but they have daily monitoring of those locations. The proposal that has been submitted to the city does not include monitoring.

Carol Wilder mentioned Houghton Lake discontinued drop off area's due to trash. She feels curbside is better.

Heidi Farmer asked where the proposed drop off locations would be.

Zoning Officer Podjaske said that hasn't been decided since an option hasn't been approved.

Paul Crandall has concerns if central drop locations are approved, anyone can drop at them and the city residents are paying the bill.

Cathy Lester asked why go with American Waste and not the township recycling center.

Zoning Officer Podjaske said two years ago a few townships pulled out of the recycling center in the township so the township decided that it would only be for Grayling Township residents. They won't open it up to the City Residents.

Cathy Lester asked if we pay would the township allow City Residents.

Zoning Officer Podjaske they never gave the city any options to allow the residents to do so.

RaDel Rosin feels curbside will encourage more residents to recycle and agrees drop off locations will just cause more problems.

Carol Wilder mentioned that some residents don't have transportation and could not take items to drop off locations.

Matt LaFontaine asked if the bins would be a problem with residents putting trash in them.

Paul Crandall asked if there was a way to include businesses.

Zoning Officer Podjaske said that could be discussed if the resident option gets approved.

Mike Johnson asked how this would be paid for.

Member Schreiner said the trash is paid out of the General Fund and with the new contract the savings could go towards recycling and then would only have to come up with approx. 3,000 to cover the program.

Zoning Officer Podjaske mentioned there were options to pay for this service.

Member Hatfield mentioned Waste Management's bid was 135K a year for trash and American Waste was 102K a year. So, we switch. The savings could go towards recycling.

Paul Crandall feels council should leave the money in the budget for trash and just add on the difference. Feels they should stop taxing residents. They already pay for sidewalk snow removal, street cleaning and so on.

Mayor Forbes mentioned that this meeting was to get residents input if they want this service and how they would like to pay for it.

Pat S. asked can only the ones who want recycling participate and the ones who don't want recycling not participate.

Mayor Forbes said the quote given is for all city residents.

Heidi Farmer mentioned a large number of homes are older residents and live on a limited income. Can't the city look for grants.

Bob Savin mentioned since there is a savings of about 30K only need a little more, can't the General Fund support this for 1 year to see if this is something that works.

City Manager Baum asked Mark if American Waste would consider adjusting for the difference for one year.

Mark mentioned they are investing about 40K just in totes for the residents.

City Manager Baum said so we are looking for a 5-year contract.

Mark said yes.

Kathy Lester asked can the 96-gal tote be smaller.

Mark said that is the standard size and is the most preferred but can possibly do 2 sizes.

Matt LaFontaine asked how do you deal with the recycle totes if they are filled with trash.

Mark said they work through those issues.

Crystal ... asked if there are any programs to help people learn about recycling.

Mark mentioned they would be willing to do a presentation for the city residents if this gets approved.

Gary Wilder asked are multiple size containers a problem for them to pick up

Mark said the 96-gal totes the trucks pick up and dump, the bins the drivers have to get out and dump.

Brian Burrell understands its hard for residents on a fixed income but \$26 dollars is not that much and is time saving having it curbside. He is in support of the recycling and curbside pick-up.

Mayor Forbes thanked everyone for their comments and concerns and if chosen will make it the most affordable. She mentioned there would be no decision made tonight. She asked for a everyone for recycling to raise their hand.

It looked as if most or all were in favor of city recycling.

Council Member Hatfield mentioned for residents to keep an eye on the city agendas for future discussion on this.

A City Resident asked how city residents were informed.

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson said everyone received a post card about the meeting.

Mayor Forbes also mentioned that the City Clerk/Treasurer received 10 emails from residents on the recycling options and only 1 was opposed.

A City Resident asked when American Waste was taking over trash pickup

Zoning Officer Podjaske said November 1st if the contract is signed. He is working on getting that completed with the City Attorney.

B. Proposed Blight Ordinance

Mayor Forbes mentioned this was just received from the City Attorney and asked members to review and it will come back for public input at a later date.

Member of the public asked if there will still be yard waste pickup

City Manager Baum said yes, but they are looking at options to help with that and to make it easier for residents.

C. Council Member Comments

Member had no comments

D. Adjournment

19-92

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Hatfield that the meeting is adjourned.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0, Vacant 0, Motion Carried

Mayor Forbes adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.

Lisa K Johnson,

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved Minutes can be found on our website: www.cityofgrayling.org