

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, HELD NOVEMBER 8, 2011, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS BUILDING, 826 NORTH MAIN STREET, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Joens called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Diane Joens, Mayor
Karen Pfeifer, Vice Mayor
Jesse Dowling, Council Member
Ruben Jauregui, Council Member
Terence Pratt, Council Member
Tim Elinski, Council Member
Linda Norman, Council Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Doug Bartosh, City Manager
Steve Horton, City Attorney
Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk
Dan Lueder, Utility Services General Manager

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF:

OPTIONS FOR THE SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION LOCATED IN COTTONWOOD

Mr. Lueder stated representatives from Taylor and Waste Management were present to discuss the possibility of a new Transfer Station. Staff has received complaints in regards to the compactor's hours of operation and wanted to discuss having staff operate the compactor. Staff has come up with three different options to consider and fourth option has come available. The first option would be to re-advertise for bid the operation for the compactor and hauling from the transfer station as it is done now. Staff would put out a solicitation with the ground rules, but the current problems now are the hours of operation which are not serving the customer base that wants to come in there. A second option would be to use city staff to operate the transfer station and have it open during normal work hours. Staff would prepare a solicitation bid for when the compactor bin is full and the city would contract out hauling to the landfill. There is a little over a 1,000 tons that is hauled per year. The third option would be to have the city take complete control of the compactor and transfer station over, including hauling to the landfill. The fourth option would to allow the compactor be used at a different site for a new transfer station.

Council Member Elinski asked how much additional staffing would be needed for the compactor.

Mr. Lueder stated at most it would be for one additional staff person. They could have that person working Tuesday through Saturday and have someone from one of the other departments on Monday.

Council Member Pratt stated he liked option 2 and option 4 is interesting since he has heard complaints about the location too.

Dusty Roulston, from Waste Management, stated one of the things they have talked about was the need for a full blown transfer station rather than a convenience site. The current site is not very cost effective. The Verde Valley does not produce enough trash to make a large transfer station cost effective for Waste Management to build on their own, but if they could partner with someone with the land and then Waste Management would run it, then it would become cost effective.

Council Member Elinski asked how much land they would need.

Mr. Roulston stated they would need at least three acres, possibly five acres.

Mr. Lueder stated staff has been looking for some grants but they have not been able to find anything for the land that would be needed. There are three sites that have been identified that are industrial zones in town. One is by the airport, which Waste Management has concerns about being so close to the airport. The other area is the industrial area on 6th Street, and the third location is on the border with Camp Verde on Highway 260.

Chris Taylor, owner of Taylor Waste, stated they have spoken with staff about the possibility of having a transfer station being located on the Taylor Waste property on 6th Street. Taylor Waste has also suggested the possibility of moving the compactor to their site. He is unsure of the amount of traffic that would occur for that site. They are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer asked how many acres they have on 6th Street.

Mr. Taylor stated they have 5 1/4 acres for their property.

Mayor Joens asked how many acres are at the compactor site.

Mr. Lueder stated it is under an acre.

Council Member Pratt asked Mr. Taylor if they could do recycling as well.

Mr. Taylor stated they could do that as well. They currently offer curbside recycling right now and would like to have a recycling center there as well. They don't recycle glass since it contaminates comingled recycling.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer asked if Taylor Waste has enough space to do a transfer station.

Mr. Taylor stated there would be enough space. The road through the property poses a problem, but they could work around it. It would be located closer to the slag pile.

Mayor Joens wondered what kind of traffic it would create since emergency services is close by and come down that road.

Mr. Lueder stated staff could get some numbers in relation to the compactor and the haul trucks would eventually be coming out from the slag pile.

Mayor Joens stated the city has been talking with Taylor Waste for a long time about creating an Ordinance to move all pickups to the right hand side of the road or the left hand side and that would save the haulers some money, which could be put back into helping people recycling more.

Mr. Taylor stated that was one of the possibilities with recycling and they also looked at the possibility of zoning with the trash service. Some streets might be difficult because the neighbors might not want an extra trash can in front of their house. He suggested if the City did do that, than alternate the side of the road by the year, one year it is on one side of the road, the next year it is on the other side of the road. Silver Springs currently does that.

Council Member Dowling asked if it be possible to operate a transfer station that is open on Saturday.

Mr. Taylor stated they would have to look at that and maybe operate between 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturday.

Mr. Lueder stated staff has asked Waste Management how much it would cost to have the compactor open more hours and it would cost about \$20.00 per hour. That could be another option and the rates could go out to the customers to cover that cost.

Les Baker, from Patriot Disposal, announced that they will be opening a recycling plant. They are located on the other side of the mountain and they have all the haulers from there. They are in direct competition with Grey Wolf. The plant will employ 15-20 people and the grand opening will be in December. They have talked with Taylor Waste of the possibility of putting equipment at their site for loaders and trailers. Patriot would pay to have it hauled to their plant. If the City does build a transfer station they would provide space for loaders and trailers.

Mayor Joens asked if they would be picking up the trash and then looking through it for recycling.

Mr. Baker stated all haulers are dumping at their transfer site, and then it is sorted on transfer floors. New machinery is being installed to make it more efficient, and it would be

operated 24 hours a day.

Bob Rothrock, from Cottonwood, stated the City should be focusing on recycling.

Mayor Joens stated this something she is very passionate about and wants to give private business everything to make a living. Someone emailed her and pointed out that if you drive to Clarkdale it is pretty clean, but if you drive to Cottonwood you can tell that we don't require garbage pickup. It seems to her, that the public did not want the city involved in who they chose. She wants to ensure the public is recycling and that Council needs to do something about this problem. We need to do the responsible thing and require recycling for all residences however we need to do that.

Council Member Elinski stated we had talked about franchising the City to one company.

Council Member Pratt stated we should be recycling but doesn't like bidding out to one company city wide and our citizens don't like that. He would like to see neighborhoods get involved.

Council Member Dowling stated if there was a central station here where they recycle everything, then you don't have to ask people to do anything. They are just doing it anyway. If that existed in a place where all the local haulers could take their trash to, then we could still have individual business picking up individual trash, knowing that the trash is going to a facility that will be recycling. So you don't have to do mandatory recycling, and you can have mandatory trash pickup.

Mayor Joens stated we want to support local business but we have more trucks on the streets and the taxpayers are paying to fix the streets.

Mr. Horton stated there are statutory requirements to provide opportunities for service, but it is not prescribed on how to do that.

Mayor Joens stated she had spoke with someone today that would like to see her trash bill come out with her wastewater bill and then you would know they would be using the service. We have been talking about this for a couple years and we just don't do anything. We can't just sit here and do nothing.

Council Member Pratt stated we are all passionate about recycling and we have to figure out a way to do that, but again, he really does not want to do anything that would hurt a local business.

Mayor Joens asked the Council if we should pass an Ordinance to mandate recycling. Clarkdale has one hauler and have more recycling.

Mr. Taylor stated almost all of the haulers provide curbside recycling, and that is a cost to the haulers. Some residents think that the haulers should do it for free. He doesn't want to

see it come to a single hauler since he could be put out of business. They could make recycling mandatory and when new customers set up trash service, they would also set up recycling with that.

Mayor Joens questioned what about what Patriot is going to do, and offer to pick it all up and sort through it.

Mr. Taylor stated that is something we could look at.

Council Member Pratt stated the one-stop shop idea where they sort the garbage is the ideal situation.

Mayor Joens asked the Council if we should require the haulers separate out the recyclables.

Mr. Lueder stated people that don't want to comingle their trash could still take their recyclables to the bins. It would also make the possibility of getting a grant much more likely if we can have new technology and new ways to improve the recycling. It would still serve the haulers if they could take the trash locally and dump it and avoid wear and tear on the vehicles. He believes that comingle is the future of solid waste.

Council Member Dowling asked what about the local companies that does the recycling now and how this would affect them.

Mayor Joens stated Sedona Recycling keeps bringing free places in the city to bring people's recycling to, and wonders why we would be paying someone for a contract. Obviously, if they can do it for free, why would we pay them to pick it up.

Council Member Pratt stated we are in the exploratory phase and we need to continue.

Mr. Lueder stated for clarification the direction being given is for staff to continue working with local haulers for a transfer station whether it be comingled, solid waste one side and recycling on the other. The second question is what do we do with the transfer station and based on what Council said during the meeting maybe bid it out for a one year term and see where we are next year at this time. Staff could include additional hours to stay open in the bid.

Mayor Joens stated to keep it open any longer costs people a lot more to dump.

Mr. Lueder stated to keep it open five days a week for full days it is about \$80-\$100 extra.

Mayor Joens stated if the city can do the person part of the proposal, then she is in favor of option number 2.

Mr. Lueder stated if we do hire a new employee and then a new transfer station comes

online, do we absorb that employee into another department.

Mayor Joens stated it should be known that it is only a temporary position and we won't know how long that position will be needed.

Mr. Lueder stated staff can do a bid for the hauling for an estimated 1,000-1,500 tons and how much it would cost to haul it from point A to point B. And then Council would have to decide how much we will charge.

Mayor Joens asked if we are going to absorb the extra expense for operating the compactor.

Mr. Lueder stated we will absorb the extra hours. If it is open more and we advertise it more, we might get more people coming and showing up there.

Council directed staff move forward with hiring an additional staff person to operate the compactor on a full time basis temporarily; prepare a bid for hauling services from the compactor; and work with the local haulers to look into opening a new transfer station so the city doesn't have to do it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 38-431.03.A.7 THE COUNCIL MAY VOTE TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER ITS POSITION AND INSTRUCT ITS REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY

Council Member Norman moved to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Pfeifer and carried unanimously.

After discussion under executive session, Vice Mayor Pfeifer moved to enter into regular session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Joens and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Joens moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Pfeifer, and carried unanimously. The work session adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Diane Joens, Mayor

ATTEST:

Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a work session of the City Council of the City of Cottonwood held on November 8, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called, and that a quorum was present.

Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk

Date