

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Sustainable Practices Recommendations

February 1, 2010 – 6:25 p.m.

Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

City Council Present: Mayor Ferrini, Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh, Councilors Lister, Hejtmanek, Spear, Dwyer Coviello, Kennedy and Smith

Staff Present: John P. Bohenko, City Manager; Robert P. Sullivan, City Attorney; Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director; Silke Psula, Solid Waste Coordinator; Cindy Hayden, Deputy City Manager; and Kelli L. Barnaby, City Clerk

Blue Ribbon Committee Sustainable Practices: Bert Cohen, Gary Epler, Skye Maher, Drew Martin, Brett Pasinella, Tom Rooney, Chair; and Ann Walker, School Board Representative

Mayor Ferrini called the work session to order at 6:25 p.m.

City Manager Bohenko asked Silke Psula, Solid Waste Coordinator; to provide a presentation on the City's Solid Waste Program.

Silke reported that the Solid Waste budget is \$1.1 million and that the recycling center was established in July 2002.

Services Residents Receive:

- *Curbside Collection MSW*
- *Curbside Collection Recyclables*
- *On-Demand Curbside Collection Bulky Waste*
- *Curbside Collection Yard Waste*
- *Curbside Collection Christmas Trees*
- *Recycling Center*

She reviewed future objectives as follows:

- *Sustainable*
- *Increase recycling rates (single stream)*
- *Enhance yard waste (composting) program*
- *W-T-E*
- *Fiduciary responsibility*

She said single stream is leading-edge technology that eliminates the need to separate recyclables by category for collection.

Economic and Environmental Benefits:

- Increased participation in recycling
- Average increase in recycling volumes
- Less time for curbside collection
- Less idling time for trucks (resulting in less pollution)
- Fewer trips to the recycling facility

She reported that average savings for a collector using single stream was 5-25%. Disadvantages to single stream possible increase in contamination, processing costs may increase, initial capital costs.

Pay as You Throw (PAYT)

- Users are charged based on how much waste they generate;
- Waste is measured by weight or size
- Tags, bags or containers

Silke said the two most traditional approaches to paying for waste are the flat-rate system or municipal taxes. There are three broad categories with PAYT, they are economic, environmental and social. Disadvantages to PAYT, public resistance is common; illegal dumping; reallocating the cost; and low income family issues. She reviewed the various NH communities with PAYT and those considering implementation of PAYT.

Long Term Objectives

- Sustainable
- Increase recycling rates
- Enhance yard waste program
- Fiduciary responsibility

Tom Rooney, Blue Ribbon Committee Sustainable Practices, Chair said the Committee recommends that the City Council consider instituting a Pay-As-You-Throw policy following an analysis by appropriate public works staff on the potential effort involved in instituting this policy. The benefits of instituting the policy are:

- *Requires residents to only pay for trash they throw away*
- *Creates equity among services residents receive*
- *Increases recycling and reduces waste*
- *Reduces/eliminates wasteful habits*
- *Lowers long term solid waste disposal costs*
- *Creates an environmentally sustainable system*

Gary Epler said the Pay-As-You-Throw is consistent with the objectives of the Public Works Department and tends to support an increase in recycling. He spoke to the importance of educational efforts.

Skye Maher said Ms. Quintans', a former member of the Committee, neighborhood has taken on the program and most people learn from participation. She provided a letter of support from the Ms. Quintans' neighborhood.

City Manager Bohenko said it is important to remember that the City will need lead time on any changes. He said he would like 18 to 24 months lead time and to focus on single stream collections first. He said we do need to study this, look at its impacts and education with public input.

Councilor Dwyer asked if we have a sense of what people are not recycling. Silke said there is always room for improvement. She said some people do not recycle all they can, but they do more than single stream and when it is discussed people pay more attention.

Councilor Spear asked if we are part of a State-wide cooperative. City Manager Bohenko said we are looking at a great deal of options at this time. He spoke to our procurement and RFP process and the high cost of hauling items. City Manager Bohenko said that the single stream process would make it easier for residents.

Councilor Spear suggested creating an incentive for people that recycle. He said the City has been making progress with recycling and he is pleased with that.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh asked if items would need to be separated for single stream recycling. Silke said the City would see a decrease in the collection process. Councilor Coviello spoke regarding changing peoples habits.

Ms. Maher said that she would like to see more education with the creation of zero waste events. She said we could begin the process with the Farmers' Market this year and events starting in 2011.

Councilor Dwyer said she would like to see more residents composting items.

Mayor Ferrini said when the City Council deliberates on this matter they will seek quantize data and what the cost is for each resident.

At 7:05 p.m., Mayor Ferrini closed the work session.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, CMC/CNHMC
City Clerk