

**Minutes of the Belton City Council
Special Meeting
May 16, 2019
City Hall Annex
520 Main Street, Belton, Missouri**

Mayor Davis called the special meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Councilman Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Davis, Tim Savage, Chet Trutzel, Dean VanWinkle, Gary Lathrop, Stephanie Davidson, Dave Clark, Ryan Finn, and Lorrie Peek

Staff present: Alexa Barton, City Manager; Padraic Corcoran, Attorney; and Andrea Cunningham, City Clerk

RESOLUTIONS

Andrea Cunningham, City Clerk, read Resolution R2019-48: **A resolution of the City Council of the City of Belton, Missouri directing the City Manager to exercise the City of Belton's right to terminate the contract for solid waste collection services by and between the City of Belton, Missouri and Jim's Disposal Service, LLC without cause; authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute certain documents necessary for the purchase of residential solid waste collection carts; and to take such other actions necessary to provide for the collection of solid waste within the City of Belton.**

Presented by Councilman Trutzel, seconded by Councilwoman Peek. Vote on the resolution was recorded with all voting in favor. Resolution passed.

Alexa Barton, City Manager, gave a presentation to the City Council about the future of recycling, about the process of rebidding solid waste disposal services, and the plan to purchase carts. (see attached)

Ms. Barton informed the Council there is no need for an executive session tonight.

Being no further business, Councilman Clark moved to adjourn at 6:44 p.m. Councilman VanWinkle seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Andrea Cunningham, City Clerk

Mayor Jeff Davis

Special Meeting: May 16, 2019
Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste Discussion

Good evening Mayor and City Council Members, the following information is to help provide answers to some questions that have arisen due to tonight's agenda items. I would like to share with you some information about our current contract and suggested services in the upcoming City Request for Proposal for Solid Waste, Recycling and Yard Waste.

Comments regarding our Current Contract

The City has been working with our current contractor;

Unfortunately, it has not been a good cooperative fit and therefore I recommended a 60-day cancellation in accordance with the contract;

I know people believe we chose the "low bidder"; however, the City is required to select the low and **best** bidder. On all bidding transactions we evaluate proposals based on certain criteria (experience, resources, references, sometimes that information includes business plans and more) and at that time those were met – The City of Belton follows every purchasing provision and guideline when evaluating proposals from bidders;

When the Council approved tonight's Resolution, brought the need to rebid disposal services. As such, it is important to expand on one of the services – along with the impact that the ever-changing industry of recycling is having on solid waste management.

Recycling

As many of you are aware recycling has been rapidly changing. I have read many articles, news stories and spoken with representatives from Mid-America Regional Council, including the Solid Waste Program Manager, Lisa McDaniel who all agree that Recycling is in an ever-changing situation in its current status, and as such, has no choice but to evolve thereby seeing changes in the market and ultimately services to communities.

For those who have not heard, Other countries such as China and Malaysia have accepted US recycle content in the past; however, much of that recycling was contaminated and ended up in their own landfills or is abandoned. Recycling Centers are beginning to limit the amount of contaminants allowed, many are stipulating no more than 20% contamination. In fact, our current contractor has informed the City of Belton that contamination levels in Belton are just over 40%.

In order to bring this under control the Solid Waste Recycling Haulers have begun their own marketing endeavors, which we have been seeing on the local news with news stories from such local solid waste vendors who have recycling centers, like WCA, Republic and Waste Management, but the stories don't stop on the local level because this is a national predicament. There are news stories from CNN, NBC, FOX and more.

Here is a sampling:

VIDEOS

These stories tell the true situation of recycling in America. In fact, the first stories were from local contractors, whose story was about a year old. The reported amount reflected in their story has changed today; meaning the status of recycling impacts in our own back yards. Education is a key part to recycling

because of its constant need to change and evolve; therefore, these stories you've just seen, along with others are now posted on the City of Belton's website and Facebook page.

Why am I sharing all of these news reports with you? Because in the new Request for Proposals prepared by the City of Belton for Solid Waste, Recycling and Yard Waste services, we want to be on the forefront of this change in recycling, and will be asking for 3 alternate proposals.

1. No Recycling,
2. A centralized recycling center located in Belton, and
3. Curbside Recycling

Of course, no recycling speaks for itself and from what I've heard is not the wishes of many within our community. Therefore, I would like to share the vast amount of information gleaned from various sources previously mentioned, as to the benefits of a central recycling center should that be the proposed service of choice in order to continue providing a recycling service that is effective to the true intent of recycling; which is: *Recycling* helps protect the environment. It reduces the need for extracting, refining and processing raw materials all of which create air and water pollution. As recycling saves energy it also reduces the impact on our landfills and greenhouse gas emissions, which helps to tackle climate change.

Location:

However, it is important to note that should a Recycling Center be chosen, the new location would **not** be at the Fire Station as our previous center was; instead, it would be located on city/public property where there may be multiple options, and all would be considered for the best service site – should this option be selected.

It would be fenced, secured and manned by City staff who would be educated on acceptable recycling content. In order to meet the concerns we have regarding what happened at our prior recycling center, where people dumped a vast amount of trash, this area would be fenced, secured and have cameras, along with a vast amount of signage stating the hours of the center and no dumping or piling items outside the gates. Also, should after hours or general dumping occur, the City would prosecute the offenders to the fullest extent of the law.

Effectiveness of a Recycling Center

Many may wonder how this is effective... with a Recycling Center the City would accept approved recycling that would be segregated at the center. Currently citizens have single stream or what is also known as "mixed" recycling. In its place, we would have separate recycling containers and those items would be segregated so as to meet the requirements and needs of what we are learning from the recycling industry.

If this option is selected citizens would need to show proof of Belton residency in order to drop off their recycling. If it is not already separated, the City staff person would help our citizens separate it as a part of education for future drop-offs. They **would not do it for them**, remember the quote:

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

Our citizens are very interested in recycling and helping our environment; so is the City of Belton. By taking this approach, the benefits would be 3-fold in that:

1. we would now meet what the Recycling Industry is promoting: where the former marketing material use to say Recycle More, it now reads: "Recycle Better" or better yet, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"... and we would be doing just that; and

2. this would help educate all of Belton on the acceptable items for recycling; after all, as we have all learned, just because there may be a recycling image on a piece of plastic, does not mean it is acceptable to the outside recycling centers; and
3. the City of Belton would be providing only 1 cart per household for trash use thereby eliminating the space to store 2 carts.

However, if we were to step away from curbside recycling, understanding this is a very important service our citizens desire; the City would incorporate into the RFP the ability to add curbside recycling back to our citizens ONCE THE RECYCLING INDUSTRY HAS STABILIZED.

To reiterate, if a recycling center would be the preferred method, curbside recycling would not be a part of services in a contract awarded within 60 days; instead, we would add a provision with the ability to amend the agreement if both parties agree to the cost for services when the recycling industry is more amenable and receptive to recycling.

What I have just shared is but a small window as to the options being placed for Recycling services and how they might function.

While I know you've heard an extensive amount of information about Recycling this evening, there are the elements of solid waste (trash) and yard waste being addressed in the RFP that I would like to briefly address.

Solid Waste (Trash)

The provisions outlined in the RFP come after due diligence by the City to ensure these services are continued without a gap so as to prevent a public health issue within our City.

Included in services, and a change from what we've had, will be the provision of a city purchased 96 gallon cart that will be delivered to their address. This cart becomes the property of the City and will stay at the address. Should people move they will not take the cart; the cart goes to an address and stays there.

The carts specified come with a standard 12 year body and 10 year moving parts warranty. There was a provision to add 3 additional years warranty, at an additional cost; however, the City has chosen to not take advantage of that option due to the additional cost.

The purchase of these carts will allow our citizens to not have to change out carts should the provider change at the end of the contractual period.

The reason for the larger size carts is to address what the haulers have stated is a more economical approach to solid waste disposal; that is, they will pass down the street "1-time" and perform "1-tip" of a cart; this means that all trash at a residence must be within the cart.

The current practice that we are used to is the hauler was to pick-up all trash, even if it was in bags outside the cart. The new specifications require all trash to be contained within a cart; therefore we wanted the largest carts we could procure for our citizens. If there is trash outside the cart it will NOT be taken.

For those families with an extraordinary amount of trash, additional carts may be purchased through the City with the possibility of an additional tip fee, contingent upon the pricing returned from the disposal companies.

Furthermore, The City is providing for our hardship cases on record and would provide 48 gallon carts, if they desire. These will be available on a very limited basis.

No other services will be impacted by the purchase of carts. City Disposal Services is a proprietary and separate fund. The City will get a loan, somewhat like a lease to purchase, and will include the cost of carts in determining the monthly rate to citizens. Remember though, the bidders will not be asked to provide carts resulting in a reduced disposal rate from what it would have been if they were asked to include the provision of carts with their service.

Yard Waste

In the RFP we are asking for Yard Waste to be a year-round service with 10 items curbside. That would include any combination up to 10 items of yard waste including grass clippings and leaves – that must be in biodegradable bags only; or limbs cut down and bundled with twine per the specifications. Any yard waste in plastic or grocery store brown paper bags will not meet the yard waste code and will not be picked up.

There are times in the winter where some homeowners continue to cut their grass, winter limbs fall – ...

of course, I am referring to a minimal amount that would be bundled and placed at the curb. For larger storm events, the City would, more than likely, as we did this year, open an emergency storm tree limb drop off site, as I stated due to the extremely difficult winter we had this last year. And, of course, after Christmas, there is Christmas tree disposal.

Conclusion

In the end, the cost for disposal services and how each of those services is laid out would be contingent upon multiple factors including the services themselves, carts, and more.

I understand this is a lot to digest, and there are still a lot of questions out there; however, I believe the Resolution in front of you this evening is a good start to beginning to get the answers to those unknown items that will impact our disposal services in the future.