

Minutes of the Roy City Council Work Session held in the City Multipurpose Room of the Roy City Municipal Building on August 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Notice of the meeting was provided to the Standard Examiner at least 24 hours in advance. A copy of the agenda was posted.

The following members were in attendance:

Councilmember Jan Burrell	City Manager, Jason Poulsen
Councilmember Joe Paul (via telephone)	City Attorney, Andy Blackburn
Councilmember Bryon Saxton	
Councilmember Dave Tafoya	

Also present were: Matt Andrews; Police Chief, Carl Merino; Fire Chief, Jeff Comeau; Parks and Recreation Director, Travis Flint; Public Works Director, Ross Oliver; City Recorder, Morgan Langholf

A. Welcome & Roll Call

Councilmember Burrell welcomed those in attendance and noted that Mayor Dandoy and Councilmember Yeoman were excused, and Councilmember Paul was present via telephone.

B. Discussion Regarding Waste Management Proposal

Councilmember Burrell said that Beth Holbrook from Waste Management and staff were present to answer questions and give input on the issue before them tonight. The two options presented by staff were to keep the recycling program and increase the rate by \$1.23 per month, or to do away with the recycling program completely. Councilmember Burrell said that if they chose to accept the increased fee, the residents would need to be informed and the City could offer an opt-out period for residents who do not want to participate in recycling with the increase.

Beth Holbrook, Waste Management, asked the Council if they felt that recycling was going to be of value in a long-term perspective.

Councilmember Tafoya said that about 67% of Roy residents want to participate in the recycling program, so it seemed that the community found value in recycling.

Councilmember Saxton had read that only 5-7% of the items people were putting in their containers were actually getting recycled, and the rest was sent to the landfill. Ms. Holbrook said that this was misinformation. The truth was that only 5-7% was taken to the landfill, and somewhere between 20-25% of what people put into their containers was contamination. Councilmember Saxton still felt like it was not worth participating if only a small percentage of the product was actually being recycled. The residents were paying for a recycling service, but the recycling isn't actually happening. He was uncomfortable with being asked to pay more while less was being recycled. He felt that the residents should be given the choice to participate or not.

Councilmember Burrell asked staff if it would be easier for the City to charge an extra fee to only those who wanted to participate in the recycling program or do away with the program completely. Mr. Poulsen said that the easiest thing for the City in the long-run would be to have one rate for both garbage and recycling. Politically, however, it was important to give the residents the choice.

The Council briefly discussed cancelling the recycling program altogether, but it was noted that the fee could still increase if they only provided the garbage service.

Councilmember Paul said that it was important to give the residents the option of participating in recycling for an extra fee. The residents needed to be educated as to what could and could not be put in the recycling container. Councilmember Burrell agreed.

Councilmember Saxton wasn't in favor of increasing fees. Mr. Poulsen said that there was no way that the garbage utility fund could cover this fee.

Ms. Holbrook said that they could structure the increase to happen slowly over 11 months or so.

Councilmember Saxton asked Ms. Holbrook where she saw the recycling program five years from now. Ms. Holbrook reported that there were several cities in the nation that were looking to develop manufacturing facilities that could handle recyclable materials. Historically, China has been buying anything and everything to recycle, and now they're shutting the doors. In the long-run, recycling will still be around. She emphasized the importance of educating the public on contamination and appropriate recyclable materials.

The Council discussed phasing the fee, and it was revealed that staff would prefer to do the fee increase all at once. The group then discussed the timing of implementing the fee and initiating the opt-out period. They first talked about implementing the fee in October, but it would be difficult to get the information out to the residents by then because the newsletter doesn't come out again until October. After some further discussion, they decided to implement the fee increase in January, which would give the City three months to put information out to the public.

Ms. Holbrook suggested leaving flyers on each container regarding appropriate recycling materials and asked how they could get throughout the entire City in one day. It was suggested that they consider asking the waste truck drivers, police, or some scouts to do it.

C. Adjourn

Councilmember Saxton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and Councilmember Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Robert Dandoy
Mayor

Attest:

Morgan Langholf
City Recorder