

MINUTES

1. CONVENE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Mayor Zerby called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

A. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Zerby; Councilmembers Johnson, Labadie, and Siakel, City Administrator Lerud; City Clerk Thone; Planning Director Darling; Director of Public Works Brown; and, City Engineer Fauske

Absent: Councilmember Sundberg

B. Review Agenda

Johnson moved, Labadie seconded, approving the agenda as presented. Motion passed 4/0.

2. Trash Collection Survey Results – Peter Leatherman

Mr. Leatherman gave a brief overview of the specifics on how the survey was conducted. He noted that they had surveyed four hundred randomly selected residents between March 5, 2019 and March 19, 2019. He reviewed the demographics of the respondents such as residential longevity, age, make up of their households, and whether they were male or female. He reviewed the results of how long people had been with their current trash hauler and whether they had changed haulers or not. The respondents rated their satisfaction very high with ninety-nine percent saying the service was good or excellent. He reviewed the answers given about what they liked most about their service. He stated that seventy-six percent of people rated the importance of choice as somewhat or very important. He explained that when asked for their opinion of the proposed trash hauling changes in the City, sixty-one percent opposed the change, twenty-five percent support it and fourteen percent were unsure. He reviewed the reasons given for their decision to oppose or support organized trash collection. He stated that for those who supported organized trash collection, the biggest reason was to reduce truck traffic. He explained that for those who opposed organized trash collection, their most common reason was choice. He reviewed the results regarding recycling and organics collection. He stated the concept of a spring and fall curbside clean-up programs were highly supported. He noted that what came out of this survey is very similar to what he has found in other areas, that in Minnesota, the right to choose your garbage hauler is very important.

Councilmember Siakel stated that she finds it interesting that recycling is organized trash collection and people are fine with that but concerned about organized trash collection.

Mayor Zerby asked if the representative from Randy's would be interested in answering some questions about the organics and recycling collection.

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Mark Stoltman, CEO of Randy's, stated that they had pioneered a process in Wayzata about twelve years ago for organics collection. He stated that it had some problems because of additional trucks. He stated that they have now gone to a co-collection process where there is a compostable bag that is put in with the trash and not the recycling. He invited the Council and City staff to participate in a tour of their facility and see how the robot picks the compostable bags off of the line.

Mayor Zerby asked how organics collection would work in the City, and if it would only be available to clients of Randy's Sanitation. Mr. Stoltman stated that this organics collection service is available to any hauling company who wants to use it.

Councilmember Johnson stated that during his explanation, he mentioned reducing truck traffic more than once and asked him to explain more about that comment.

Mr. Stoltman stated that he did not intend to make a comment regarding weight concerns for the roadway, but in not having to buy another truck to handle this hauling. He clarified that he is the President of Haulers for Choice and they do not believe the trucks from a weight standpoint will cause more of a problem.

Councilmember Siakel stated that her interest in this issue was not just the weight of the trucks on the roadway. She stated that she felt the City needed to look and see if there was a better way to provide this service to residents. She stated that Mr. Stoltman had been pretty vocal about why having organized collection is such a bad idea and asked him to explain his reasoning. She explained that the Council had discussed dividing the City into zones, so the City was not even looking at one hauler for the entire City.

Mr. Stoltman stated that he has been with Randy's for twenty-six years and their goal is to tie themselves to their customer base through a variety of ways. He stated that their goal is to design the company and its services so people will want to choose them. He stated that organized collection freezes their ability to expand their customer base by word of mouth and by other people seeing their good service.

Councilmember Siakel asked what Randy's market share of the business is within the City. Mr. Stoltman stated that they serve a little more than 900 of the 2,500 residents.

Mayor Zerby noted that the Council would not be making any decision tonight and this presentation was for informational purposes.

3. ADJOURN

Labadie moved, Johnson seconded, Adjourning the City Council Work Session Meeting of May 28, 2019, at 6:43P.M. Motion passed 4/0.

ATTEST:

Scott Zerby, Mayor

Sandie Thone, City Clerk