

Service and Sewers Committee

The Service and Sewers Committee met on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 via the Zoom meeting application to discuss rubbish and recycling services.

Present were committee and Council members Grushetsky, Price and Gambatese. Also present were Council members Schlessel, Frey and LoPresti, Mayor Ward, Director of Law John Luskim, Assistant Director of Law Ray Schmidlin, Finance Director Mary Kovalchik, Service Director Tony Fioritto and Assistant Clerk of Council Kelly Miller.

Chairman Grushetsky called the meeting to order at 7:00pm asking Mr. Fioritto to lead the discussion regarding the solid waste disposal and recycling processing services.

Mr. Fioritto stated the city is at the end of the current 5 year contract and had to go out to bid. He explained that previously the city was getting reimbursed .50 per ton for recyclables and will now have to pay to dump those materials. Among the 4 bids received, Kimble and Rumpke were the only companies willing to offer recycling services. Mr. Fioritto stated the city is currently using Kimble for Recycling and Republic for trash. If the city contracts with Kimble for both services, the city would be charged \$41.86 per ton for rubbish disposal and \$55.00 per ton for recycling. Republic bid \$40 per ton for rubbish only whereas Rumpke bid \$120 a ton for recycling services. Mr. Fioritto stated that while Kimble is slightly higher on rubbish, there would be a cost savings of approximately \$11,000 for both services by contracting with Kimble; the agreement with Kimble Company is only for 2 years. He mentioned if the city decides not to move forward with the recycling program, the materials would still need to be disposed of; therefore, it would take a total of 3 automated trucks with the same amount of employees where we currently use 2 trucks. The cost increase for an additional truck would be approximately \$29,000 per year. Mr. Fioritto shared how in 2018 there a study was done with 94% of United States citizens believing everyone should recycle with 74% listing recycling as a high priority. He estimates between 60-75% of Lyndhurst residents currently recycle on a weekly basis, with 10-15% recycling bi-weekly. Mr. Fioritto recommends Council continue with the recycling program.

Mayor Ward explained these services were put out to bid by the Consortium of 11 communities. He remarked the City of Lyndhurst has been providing recycling services since the 1990's noting that if we abandon the recycling program now only to bring it back at a later date is counter intuitive. Mayor Ward stated the city has been vigilant about crafting our messaging regarding recycling and keeping residents well informed. He noted that the majority of the recyclables collected in the state of Ohio remain local. Mayor Ward does not think the recycling program should be abandoned because the process may be more difficult or because it may cost a little more money.

Discussion began with Mr. Frey making several points including the need to be sure which ever company the city uses is recycling and not disposing of these materials. He also inquired whether the types of recycled materials will remain the same or will it change with a new company.

Mr. Price inquired whether it would help the city logistically to ask residents to fill their recycling bin prior to putting it out for pick up. Mr. Fioritto stated that it would speed up the process, the time to pick up the recyclables is not currently an issue.

Mayor Ward expressed the importance of giving mixed messaging with the focus being on educating residents to follow the guidelines and not contaminate the recyclables. He added how the Solid Waste District has given our city grants to help with messaging including flyers and magnets. Mayor Ward remarked to Council that when you look at the reports the Service Director provides at the beginning of the year outlining the costs to collect rubbish and recycling including equipment, we are less expensive than what the residents of neighboring communities pay out of pocket. Our program works well because we make it easy for our residents and they recognize it.

Mr. Frey agreed the rubbish, recycling and yard waste collection programs are consistently the most complimented services the city offers.

It was moved by Mr. Gambatese, seconded by Mr. Price that the committee recommend to approve the agreement with Kimble Company for both solid waste disposal and recycling processing services.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Grushetsky
Service and Sewers Committee Chairman