

COUNCIL WORK SESSION, MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015 AT 5:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice President Goebel with the following members present: Harrington, Niemeyer, Hoops, Duval, Skutnik. Absent: Krings, Odom.

Others present: Joe Patterson, Kent Gilbert, Pete Kortum, Jeff Hassenstab, Dave Ptak, Jack Newlun, Steve Murphy, Dave Wacker.

Vice President Goebel read the Public Notice – Pursuant to the Nebraska Revised Statute Section 84-1412, the public is advised that a copy of today's agenda and all reproducible written material which will be discussed at today's meeting is available. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted and is accessible to members of the public.

Report on Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day and discussion of future of event—Dave Wacker, City Engineer.

Dave Wacker, City Engineer, began by telling Council that the Hazardous Waste Collection Day was the eighth event to be sponsored by the City and that he wanted to share a brief report with Council on the event and some survey information from individuals participating in the event. He told Council that he felt people wanted a place to get rid of this type of waste on a daily or weekly basis.

Jack Newlun, Solid Waste Superintendent, stated they started doing this type of event in 2000 and it was really brought about by the state's banning of certain types of waste from landfills. He stated the City sponsored a tire collection event in January and the recent Household Hazardous Waste Collection in April. He indicated they were able to have the event due to grant funds received. He provided a summary to Council (*Attached and made part of original minutes.*). He stated they had 650 vehicles come through during the five hour event with 24 volunteers helping. Mr. Newlun told Council that a hazardous waste vendor was hired to come and coordinate collection and then to haul waste material away. He told Council they surveyed citizens at the event with the majority of them indicating they would be willing to pay \$10/\$15 for this type of service to be provided for them. He talked to Council briefly about permanent site hazardous waste facilities and particularly Omaha's "Under the Sink" facility that not only collects the materials but has a store next door where they re-sell the usable waste products such as paint. Mr. Newlun told Council that Kearney just received a \$220,000 grant to go towards the construction of a new Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. He indicated to Council that he felt people really appreciated the service and were thankful they had somewhere to discard waste products. He stated that they try to do an event like this every 1 ½ to 2 years depending on if grant funds are available. He told Council the liquid waste is taken by the vendor to a hazardous waste incinerator and the electronics are broken down and the precious metals are removed.

Councilmember Niemeyer entered the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Councilmember Hoops asked where the grant money came from.

Mr. Newlun stated that it came from Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Mr. Wacker explained that the City pays taxes to the state on the waste that comes into the Landfill and by applying for grants, it is a way to recoup some of that tax money for the community.

Councilmember Niemeyer questioned if staff have numbers on what it would cost to run a permanent facility.

Mr. Newlun stated he did not have that information but stated that they would probably have to think about an interlocal agreement with surrounding communities to help support a permanent facility.

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Councilmember Goebel questioned if they have a permanent facility would they incinerate or truck away waste materials.

Mr. Newlun indicated they would truck the waste materials away.

Councilmember Skuknik asked about community waste days.

Mr. Wacker stated they have had them in the past.

Joe Patterson, City Administrator, stated that they currently have a voucher system run through the Development Services Department that provides for each home to be able to take one free load of waste to the Landfill annually to encourage disposal of waste.

Dave Ptak, City Attorney, stated that recycling is not free anymore and it is the perception that if it is good for you, it should be free. He stated that you don't want to make the price to recycle too high or you will see waste being thrown in the road ditches.

Councilmember Niemeyer stated he was sure you could get grant funds to help build a facility but the cost to run it every year after that would be the concern.

Discussion of proposed revisions to City Code Chapter 15, Motor Vehicles and Traffic.

Mr. Ptak indicated that Chapter 15 deals largely with police services related to motor vehicles and traffic. He stated that many of the changes are just deleting references to state statutes that have changed or don't exist anymore. He said that the County prosecutes traffic violations so those were also removed. He indicated they designated a "Business District" to aid in snow emergency declarations, snow removal and parking issues. Mr. Ptak also told Council they beefed up restrictions for semitrailers in residential areas. He told Council he has been frustrated with the parking ticket situation with individuals receiving three letters from the Police Department before the ticket information ever reached his office. He reviewed with Council the current parking ticket process and the fees imposed and then indicated they are proposing that if the complaint is filed with the court and the violator does not show up, their vehicle will be subject to tow and with that required to pay tow charge, storage fee and any administrative fee incurred. He indicated they want to show they are serious about parking tickets and would like an ordinance approving Chapter 15 to be placed on the agenda for Monday night.

Mr. Patterson also brought to the Council's attention the addition to the chapter to require a permit for dumpsters and roll-off containers placed along any street. He stated some are very hard to see, make snow removal difficult and stay for long periods of time.

Councilmember Niemeyer asked if this is just happening in the downtown area.

Mr. Patterson indicated it is happening all over town.

Mr. Ptak indicated that the Police can handle the enforcement of the parking but the Council has to deal with the ramifications of the enforcement.

Councilmember Hoops asked about permitted parking spaces and rental spaces.

Mr. Ptak indicated parking areas can be labeled for parking between certain hours and free after certain hours with a parking pass or sticker needing to be purchased to use specific areas.

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Councilmember Goebel stated he has even seen covered parking spaces available for a premium price and some with electric hookups for electric cars.

Discussion of proposed revisions to City Code Chapter 8, Alcoholic Beverages.

Mr. Ptak indicated to Council that changes to Chapter 8 were mostly housekeeping. He stated that Connie Hartman, former City Clerk, did the cleanup work on the chapter. He stated that they mostly took out antiquated sections that were no longer state law. He also told Council of a bill that would eliminate the requirement of a public hearing unless requested by a church or school when the distance requirement from a liquor establishment is not met.

Public Comments at City Council Meeting.

Mr. Patterson wanted to talk to Council about citizens addressing Council at City Council Meetings. He indicated that in the past they had problems and Mr. Patterson had been asked to put together a policy, which was passed out to Council, for citizens addressing the Council on items not on the Council agenda. He stated he felt they needed to review protocol. He stated that Norfolk has a policy that citizens can only talk to Council once a quarter and he felt that was too stringent.

Mr. Ptak stated you do have to allow public to speak at certain times but you can set rules and regulations for those times. He stated that you don't want to see public comments turn in to advertising for community events.

Mr. Patterson stated that 90% of public issues can be handled by staff but if staff can't help, people want to be able to address their City Council.

Councilmember Niemeyer indicated that he felt the public comment at the last Council Meeting was inappropriate and more in line with a marketing pitch for the individual's clients.

Mr. Patterson stated he wasn't sure you could restrict.

Mr. Ptak stated we have every right to ask what an individual wants to talk about because there should be some accountability and questioned if they wanted public comments to be free public service to make announcements.

Mr. Patterson stated that any handouts or DVD's to be shown must be screened to make sure they are appropriate to be viewed. He stated they need to protect the integrity of the meeting. He ended by saying he just wanted to make Council aware of the current policy.

Moved by Niemeyer, seconded by Skutnik there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 6:15 P.M. The motion carried.