

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Auburndale held July 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Room of City Hall, after having been properly advertised, with the following members present: Mayor Tim Pospichal, Commissioners: Dorothea Taylor Bogert, Keith Cowie, Richard Hamann, and Bill Sterling. Also present were: City Manager Robert R. Green, Finance Director/City Clerk Shirley Lowrance, City Attorney V. Patton Kee, and Police Chief Chris Nelson.

Mayor Tim Pospichal declared a quorum present and the Meeting was opened with prayer by Commissioner Bill Sterling and a salute to the flag.

**Motion** by Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert, seconded by Commissioner Keith Cowie, to approve the City Commission Minutes of the June 18, 2018 Meeting. Upon vote, all ayes.

Parks and Recreation Director Cody McGhee said the July 4<sup>th</sup> planned activities at the Ariana Beach begin at noon. Activities include fireworks at 9:00, a corn hole tournament, a watermelon-eating contest, and a water ski show at 7:30. They have received sponsorship from Beef O Brady's and USA Water Sports and the Pickleball donation.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

#### **1. ORDINANCE #1564 AMENDING FUTURE LAND USE MAP – SADDLE CREEK**

City Manager Green said Ordinance No. 1564 and 1565 are for second and final reading. Saddle Creek has recently acquired +/- 1.5 acres of property adjacent to the distribution center on Moss Road for use for additional storm water retention. The property was annexed into the City Limits on May 21, 2018. The requests before the City Commission is to establish the same Future Land Use and Zoning designations on the 1.5 acres as on the distribution site. The proposed Ordinance #1564 establishes the Future Land Use designation of Regional Activity Center on the 1.5 acres and is consistent with the previously approved land use classification on the adjacent distribution center property. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Amendments – June 5, 2018 (7-0). Staff recommended approval of the Ordinance.

City Attorney Kee read Ordinance No. 1564, which was presented and passed on first reading on June 18, 2018, by title only.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked for citizen comment. There was no citizen comment.

**Motion** by Commissioner Keith Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Richard Hamann, to approve Ordinance No. 1564, as read by on second reading by title only. Upon vote, all ayes.

#### **2. ORDINANCE #1565 AMENDING OFFICIAL ZONING MAP – SADDLE CREEK**

City Manager Robert Green said now that the Future Land Use has been approved as Regional Activity Center we need to approve the zoning map. He said the Light Industrial zoning would allow for development of the proposed use. Staff recommend approval.

City Attorney Kee read Ordinance No. 1565, which was presented and passed on first reading on June 18, 2018, by title only.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked for citizen comment. There was no citizen comment.

**Motion** by Commissioner Richard Hamann, seconded by Commissioner Bill Sterling, to approve Ordinance No. 1565 as read on second reading by title only. Upon vote, all ayes.

### 3. PUBLIC HEARING – VACATING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Mayor Tim Pospichal closed the Regular Commission Meeting and opened the Public Hearing.

City Manager Robert Green said on the Agenda tonight, we have three Public Hearings on three different parcels. They have all been properly advertised. The City has received a petition initiated by Michael and Jamie Lang, 371 Renssalaer to close and vacate Renssalaer Avenue lying north of Medora Street.

Community Development Director Amy Palmer said all residents that utilize Renssalaer have signed the petition to close and vacate the right of way. Polk County transferred ownership of Renssalaer Avenue to the City in January 2005. The road right of way dead-ends at Lake Arietta, where a private easement continues to the northeast for access to residences along the southeast shore of Lake Arietta. The residents that utilize the right of way plan to install a gate just north of Medora Street to control access to the private easement. The City will reserve an easement upon the right of way in the event of a future public need. Staff had no objections to the request. She displayed a map of the area to be closed.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked for citizen comment. There was no citizen comment.

Mayor Tim Pospichal closed the Public Hearing and re-opened the Regular Commission Meeting.

### 4. RESOLUTION #2018-02 VACATING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY – RENSSALAER AVENUE

City Attorney Kee read Resolution No. 2018-02 entitled: **A RESOLUTION VACATING, ABANDONING, AND DISCONTINUING A PORTION OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY KNOWN AS RENSSALAER AVENUE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (General Location: Renssalaer Avenue, lying north of Medora Street),** by title only.

**Motion** by Commissioner Bill Sterling, seconded by Commissioner Richard Hamann, to approve Resolution No. 2018-02, as read by title only.

Commissioner Richard Hamann asked if since the road would have a gate, does that become a private road.

City Manager Green said it would become a private road.

Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert asked if everybody on both sides of the road have signed the petition to close the road.

Community Development Director Amy Palmer said yes.

Upon vote, all ayes.

### 5. PUBLIC HEARING – VACATING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Mayor Tim Pospichal closed the Regular Commission Meeting and opened the Public Hearing.

City Manager Robert Green said the Public Hearing has been properly noticed. He said the City has received a petition signed by Angela Usher, Assistant Superintendent of the Polk County School Board, to close various platted rights of way.

Community Development Director Amy Palmer said the rights of way are former roads or alleys that now lie on the campus of Auburndale High School, a few of which lie underneath buildings on campus. The rights of way were created in several historic subdivisions, when Auburndale was created – Patterson &

Thomas, Miralago, and Lake View Addition to Auburndale. Over the years, several other rights of way in this subdivision have been vacated by the City. The Resolution vacating the platted rights of way is housekeeping in nature and an easement will be reserved in the event of a future public need. Staff had no objections to the request. She displayed a picture of the campus of Auburndale High School with the old road network.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked for citizen comment. There was no citizen comment.

Mayor Tim Pospichal closed the Public Hearing and re-opened the Regular Commission Meeting.

#### **6. RESOLUTION #2018-03 VACATING PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY - POLK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**

City Attorney Pat Kee read Resolution No. 2018-03 entitled: **A RESOLUTION VACATING, ABANDONING AND DISCONTINUING VARIOUS PORTIONS OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (General Location: School Board property, between Sesaquachita St. and Bloodhound Trail)**, by title only.

**Motion** by Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert, seconded by Commissioner Keith Cowie, to approve Resolution No. 2018-03, as read by title only. Upon vote, all ayes.

#### **7. PUBLIC HEARING – CLOSING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Mayor Tim Pospichal closed the Regular Commission Meeting and opened the Public Hearing.

City Manager Robert Green said the Commission has been provided a copy of the Public Hearing advertisement, which was properly advertised, and a copy of the Resolution. He said this request is coming to you as a result of the improvements to PK Avenue.

Community Development Director Amy Palmer said the last two Resolutions vacated the right-of-way – meaning the public has no further use of that right-of-way and it would then turn over to private use. This request is to close Union Street, but maintain ownership. The City would maintain ownership of the right-of-way. We are only closing the driving surface. The construction of the retention pond at this intersection, as a result of the PK Project, requires the closure of the road to through traffic. The City will be maintaining the right-of-way on this section of Union in order to accommodate the continued public use of the property. The Resolution only closes the road to through traffic. Traffic in this area will be routed through Howard Street to gain access to PK Avenue and the downtown area. Staff recommended approval of Resolution 2018-04, closing a portion of Union Street. She displayed an aerial picture of the property and thanked Communication and Information Manager Seth Teston for the aerial picture.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked for citizen comment. There was no citizen comment.

Mayor Tim Pospichal closed the Public Hearing and re-opened the Regular Commission Meeting.

#### **8. RESOLUTION #2018-04 CLOSING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY - UNION STREET**

City Attorney Pat Kee read Resolution No. 2018-04 entitled: **A RESOLUTION CLOSING A PORTION OF A PUBLIC STREET KNOWN AS UNION STREET; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (General Location: Union Street and Pilaklakaha Avenue)**, by title only.

**Motion** by Commissioner Keith Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert, to approve Resolution No. 2018-04, as read by title only. Upon vote, all ayes.

City Manager Green said since the road has been closed during the construction, we have not had much discussion. We have been monitoring and feel it has made the intersection safer.

## **9. RESOLUTION #2018-05 HONORING FIFTY YEARS OF MUNICIPAL HOME RULE**

City Manager Robert Green said the Florida League of Cities and the Ridge League of Cities have requested their member cities to pass resolutions honoring the fifty-year anniversary of Municipal Home Rule powers being amended into the Florida Constitution. In 1968, Florida voters placed Municipal Home Rule powers into the Florida Constitution as an amendment to Article VIII. Prior to this amendment, municipalities and towns had to seek legislative permission from the state via "local bills" filed with the legislature to consider, adopt, and revise its own local laws. All the actions you have taken this evening would have had to go before the Legislature for approval. This "Home Rule" authority provides Auburndale and the other local governments the ability to preserve and enhance characteristics that make each one uniquely special and that maintains its quality of life. Staff had no objections to the Resolution. Congratulations for 50 years of Home Rule.

City Attorney Pat Kee read Resolution No. 2018-05 entitled: **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE HONORING FIFTY YEARS OF MUNICIPAL HOME RULE IN THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION**, by title only.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked for citizen comment. There was no citizen comment.

**Motion** by Commissioner Richard Hamann, seconded by Commissioner Bill Sterling, to approve Resolution No. 2018-05, as read by title only. Upon vote, all ayes.

City Manager Green said we will forward the Resolution to the Florida League of Cities and the Ridge League of Cities.

## **10. REQUEST TO AMEND RECYCLING SERVICES AGREEMENT – ADVANCED DISPOSAL**

City Manager Green said he wanted to thank the local media, the Ledger and the News Chief as they helped promote the notice of our agenda this evening with the article in the news paper over the weekend. Online and in print the headline read "Auburndale to consider doubling the recycle fees". He said Advanced Disposal currently has the recycling services for the City of Auburndale. They pick up recycling on the same day we pick up the garbage. The customer likes the opportunity to put both recycling and garbage to the road on the same day. We started thinking about recycling in 2015-2016, as we were asked about recycling. We were one of the last cities to provide recycling. We had done voluntary recycling centers. In August 2015, we were in the middle of a contract with Republic for curbside recycling and we heard through the neighboring community of Lake Alfred that they were getting ready to go over \$5, when they renewed their contract. We turned around and instead of waiting for the contract to renew, we called Republic in to verify. We were told that with issues of the day the rates would probably double in 2015. Lake Alfred went to bid in August 2015 and Republic came in at \$5.48. It was a competitive bid, properly advertised and noticed, which allowed Auburndale to piggyback this bid when it came time for us renew our contract in October 2016. In this particular bid, Advanced did not bid, Progressive out of Altamonte was \$3.16, Republic came in at \$5.48, Trash Taxi came in at \$2.53, and Wastenot from Orlando was \$6.50. The City of Auburndale entered into a three-year contract from 2016 to September of 2019 with Trash Taxi on a fixed fee of \$2.53. In 2017, in the middle of the contract, Trash Taxi sold to Advanced Disposal and they honored all the terms of the contract - \$2.53 rate, through the balance of the contract. Advanced has now approached the City earlier this year and suggested during this 18 month period for a rate adjustment starting in October 2018 to \$4, and increase of \$1.47 per month in October 2019. This increase would be in the third year of the three-year contract. They also suggest in their proposal that in October 2019, we would add another \$1.46 for the services to go to \$5.46 per month for the recycling curbside services. He said as we are in a three-year contract and if we

accepted this proposal, we would have to go into a new contract or extend the contract with Advanced to capture the second year of their proposed rate increase, through September 2019. He said as additional information if you go back to the Lake Alfred bid in 2015, Republic was proposing \$5.48 at that time. He said it suggests that some things are happening in recycling. He introduced the Advanced representatives - Gary Brown, General Manager, Ken Dillingham, District Manager. He said we also have from Republic - Debbie Mulling, the Municipal Services Manager, and Chris Jones, General Manager to possibly answer any questions from the Commission.

Gary Brown, General Manager with Advanced Disposal, thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity. He went through a slide presentation and showed the recycle rates in a couple of cities over the last six months: Treasure Island at \$6.34, Dunedin at \$6.30, and Ocala was at \$5.08 and recently went to \$9.00. He said over the last three weeks the City is averaging around 58% in pick-ups. In the last 12 months, the City has averaged 111 tons. The residents are diverting 16 pounds of recycling at each home weekly. He said things to consider are - the relationship we have with the City, we know the City routes, and the contract we are fixing to sign with Republic will go from \$30.06 to \$37.00. When Trash Taxi first took the contract, they were paying around \$8. He said we are at \$2.53 and we are asking \$1.47 and \$1.46 next year to get us where we need to be to break even. He said we are here for any questions.

City Manager Green said City Staff and the Public Works Department have met with officials from the City of Winter Haven, who will also in the near future be addressing this same issue. He said this is not an Auburndale unique issue or a Polk County or State problem. What is driving this, is global issues and the market for recycle commodities on the disposal end. Advanced Disposal picks up our curbside recycling and takes it to Republic's MRC for disposal at the end of the process. In the past, the commodities were making money and it was marketable to recycle. He said where they are proposed to go in rates at Republic actually exceed the tipping fee at the landfill. There was one time, the recyclables paid more and the City received the benefit of recycling. He asked if there were questions of Advanced, as we look at the various options.

Mayor Tim Pospichal said he has been doing a little research and it said that China has reduced 24 items it will recycle in 2017 and plans to remove 16 items in 2019. He asked Advanced Disposal what type of things they will be taking out of the stream.

Gary Brown said at one time, we took one third of recycling and sold it to China. They started this process and now there is only a small percentage of tons going over there as we cannot meet their expectations.

Ken Dillingham, District Manager for Advanced, said when China took the commodity they were not so worried about the cleanliness of it. Now as they have passed their mandates for anything going to China, they wanted it at least 95% clean, which only leaves 5% for contamination. We get stuff in and it has increased the cost to process the commodity. It has also increased the residuals, which the processor has to take to the landfill. He said this has been the big impact. He said we do not know what China will ask us to take out of the recycle stream. He said potentially they are looking to take out some of the PDT's. He said recycling is a long-term game. He said it was all about the commodity and supply and demand. As US manufacturers, we are going to have to create our own demand for the commodity. He said recycling is still the right option, it is a good thing for the community and the environment. As we can take this and we find our own internal demand for it, it will correct itself over time. He said he was not sure when that would happen. Even with the Chinese, when they start to go through their stockpile and the demand for the new commodity and the technology catches up and the commodity becomes cleaner, it will also self-correct possibly in 5 or 6 years. He said we have seen it in the recycle business before. He said early in his career, fiber and cardboard went for a great rate. People would take the cardboard out of commercial containers and they would sell it. The market was flooded and the price dropped. This happened about 10 years ago and now the cardboard and fiber prices had begun to recover and now has taken another hit. He said you have to remember the recycling game is a long-term game, it is along term play and you have to weather the storms. He said that is kind of where we are right now.

Mayor Tim Pospichal said it kind of sounds like we are looking into a crystal ball. He said it sounds like we are losing an end market for the products. To be able to keep recycling with no end market, it does not seem like a feasible move without increasing the cost. Where would the costs go? Would you be coming back every year for an increase, as there is still no end market? Can you survive it, as it took 10 years between the cardboard recovery and now it took another hit?

Ken Dillingham, District Manager said yes, he felt the industry overall will. He said it is not just us. He said we are not really losing the end market - we have to redefine the end market. Right now, we became so dependent for the Chinese to purchase our commodity. As a country, as the United States, we lost focus on it. He said you have to re-shift what the end market is. When local producers and local manufacturers start to utilize the material again, it will come back. He said he felt this was about as bad as it will get. He said it would improve, as technology continues to improve and as the residents continue to be educated on recyclables. Part of what is driving some of the cost increase is the problem of contamination and diversion to the landfill. As people start to get more educated, start to understand, and understand there is a cost to recycling, they can help to control the cost as well. He said he thought we were about as close to bottom as we are going to get, as China cut it off so quickly nobody knew what to do.

Mayor Tim Pospichal said from the research he has done, Vietnam and other countries are instead of taking China's returns with open arms are following in China's steps and saying we are going to set stringent policies against accepting the materials.

Commissioner Richard Hamann said this was a worldwide problem.

Mayor Tim Pospichal said we need to get through that period of time to when the market would pick back up. He said he did not know if we can keep raising the cost. He said he knew it was just a pass-through to the citizens. We would have to explain to the citizens why it keeps going up.

Commissioner Keith Cowie asked about the contaminants and of what is collected how much is actually recycled versus contaminated and taken to the landfill.

Gary Brown said our company owns several MRC's and what we are trying to do is find markets within the United States. He said we do not throw any of your stuff away. He said 100% of it goes to the market and he would have to have Republic answer that.

City Manager Green said we will have Republic respond when they come up for presentation.

Commissioner Bill Sterling said if about 58% are our citizens are recycling, the others are paying their \$2 and getting no benefit. He said as stated, you are currently losing money. He asked if we were to terminate the agreement tonight, how much money would you save.

Gary Brown said it would be about \$15,000 monthly that we would go positive, if we park that truck just for your City alone.

Commissioner Bill Sterling said you would be saving over \$200,000 per year.

City Manager Green said be mindful that the person is getting a benefit of additional capacity in the landfill for their regular solid waste, for years down the road.

Ken Dillingham, District Manager said we based the participation rate on how many cans were out during that week. You have more participation, but not that particular week.

Gary Brown said the 58% was based on a three weeks count. With a 65-gallon cart, he and his wife may

not fill it up every month. He said he felt the count was higher than 58%, which was not a bad number if you look at the national averages. He said within the City there were some pockets of low usage.

City Manager Green said the question of the day is at what point does the citizen say at the \$2.52 or \$9.00 I just am not in it any more and that 58% falls anyway. He said he did not know if we knew that answer.

Commissioner Richard Hamann said from what he has heard since the paper did a fine job of getting the news out, the citizenry he has talked to they are not buying into it. They do not want to pay the extra cost for recycling. He asked if the market turned on the recycling end, would we be locked into the costs.

Gary Brown said we would certainly go down on the disposal, depending on the cost.

Commissioner Richard Hamann said if we suspended it and came back later, we would still have to go back out to bid.

City Manager Green said yes, we would have to bid the services.

Ken Dillingham said to suspend the recycling the material would go to your trucks and the landfill. You would have heavier loads, more trips to the landfill, and increased disposal costs. The material would move from a recycle container to garbage container – from an Advanced truck to your truck.

Commissioner Keith Cowie said one of the goal of this originally was to reduce the landfill cost. He said if we are raising the recycling rate, what difference does it make.

Gary Brown said with it about \$37 a ton, it is actually .50 higher per ton.

City Manager Green said he has heard the suggestion of technology and seen the ordinances and resolutions that some cities have passed where you look to the consumer and the business community to help with some of these changes. He said a few thing he saw was McDonald's no longer making plastic straws in Europe and gone back to the paper straw and in Seattle and some cities in the northeast passed resolutions to suggest no plastic utensils, He said it was a combination of technology and things like water purchased in cardboard containers. He thanked Advanced for their time and asked Republic to come forward.

Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert asked what the tipping fee was at the landfill.

City Manager Green said the tipping fee at the landfill was \$36.50. He said from what we heard tonight the MRC costs are at par with the landfill.

Chris Jones, Republic Services General Manager for Central Florida, said in this particular case Advanced was a customer of theirs, as they bring the materials they pick up on the residential side to the Republic Materials Recovery Center "MRC" facility and we then process that material. Everything being discussed here tonight is an issue going on across the country. This is not isolated in anyway to Auburndale. As Advanced is talking to you tonight, we are in the exact same process of going to our residential customers to explain how the cost of recycling has gone up. What has taken place in China with the policies they have put in place with China Sword, as they refer to it was implemented the beginning of this year. The customer base that was there in China was essentially cut off. There is now a flood of material and less customers. With our economy and capitalism being what it is, it will sort itself out over time, but this is a fundamental shift in the recycling market with the policies China has implemented specifically with plastics and mixed paper. They cut off mixed papers and reduced the contamination levels from 3% to .5%. Essentially, it cut off the market and now the whole country has the ripple effect. For the question about contamination, we see about 22% that is residual materials and there is no market and it goes to the landfill in Bartow. We have seen the residual material go up from about 18% a year ago to about 22%.

About 78% to 80% is still being sold to a customer to recycle and make products. Everything that is being said here tonight is not isolated to Auburndale. He said this is a fundamental shift in the market and we are all having to react to it. He said to answer the question about other price increases, nobody has a crystal ball. He said this was a commodity market and recycle materials are not traded daily. On a monthly basis, there is a very specific geographic based commodity market with pricing for all types of recycled products. He gave the example of mixed paper, which makes up about 30% of a residential waste stream – that paper a year ago was going for \$70- \$80 per ton and two months ago it was going for about \$10 per ton and two months ago we were moving it at zero. We are seeing what appears to be a bottom and seen some of the pricing mixed paper bottom in April and then in May and June go back up a little. We have seen some stabilization in the market, but it is not in the short-term going to go back to where it was a year ago just because of the fundamental shift with the policies in China.

Commissioner Richard Hamann said we do not have a crystal ball. He asked what would happen if you folks cannot find a market for the material.

Chris Jones said we will go to other counties in Asia to buy our products. There will be smaller companies and some will not make it. He said there are still markets and there will continue to be markets.

Commissioner Richard Hamann said he did not want to throw doom and gloom on it, but what if it stays flat for you and MRF plant. You have to pay more, we have to pay more.

Commissioner Bill Sterling said when you came 18 months ago and bid \$5.48, what did you know then that we did not know.

Chris Jones said we did not realize the impact of where we are today, but there was some writing on the wall in terms of increased costs. He said running a MRF you see first hand what the costs are in terms of labor and facilities. We did not foresee 18 months ago the very topic we are discussing tonight.

City Manager Green said asked if there were any other questions for Republic. He said we appreciate both the vendors being with us. He displayed a picture of the MRC facility in Lakeland. He said you can see the labor intensiveness of that. There is a lot of stockpiling going on and a lot of uncertainties. We wanted to focus tonight on options, but before that we wanted to make sure we understood this was not necessarily an Auburndale issue. This is a global issue. We are talking China, Indonesia, and Vietnam and commodities. We have some officials from Winter Haven here this evening.

Options: If we accept the option to increase to \$4 in October 2018, accept the second year increase of \$1.47 in October 2019 this provides a lock to 2020. We would have to amend the agreement. The cost is a pass through. We are not in the recycle business. We collect the \$2.53 and the Finance Department writes that check out to provide our customers the curbside recycling. In 15/16, we talked about why we do not get into that business. In Polk County, Lakeland, Auburndale, Winter Haven, and Lake Alfred are the only municipalities in the sanitation business. We get a lot of compliments on our sanitation services. The Finance Department suggests we are still making money in the sanitation business. What would it take for the City to do the recycle routes? Some of the discussion was to remove the Wednesday route to do recycling. We would have to purchase two trucks and provide totes for the service. We would probably be looking at \$1 million to get into the business. If we did that at \$1million, we would take the Advance and Republic cap and be in the same boat as Advanced is today on the disposal site. We would take our trucks to the MRC site, no different than we are today. We would be paying a little more than to take the truck to the landfill. The other option he heard was suspension of services. We were asked about the bids when we tried to get back in the market. The bid will not come in at \$2.53; they will be \$5, \$6, or \$7 or more. We could provide voluntary recycling sites. We have talked about fencing the area and staffing the recycling site to monitor the area. There would be a cost to the voluntary sites. He suggested Berkley Road for a site. Possibly, we could provide the voluntary recycling sites until this market straightens itself out. The recycle items would be taken to the MRC facility. Right now the voluntary sites



are open for everyone to throw things out. We mentioned taking it to the landfill. We do not know the answer for the markets and technology, in the future. This is why we are bringing this to your attention, for policy on where you want to go with recycling.

Mayor Tim Pospichal said he was concerned on where this will end. He said he has gotten some calls from people who want to recycle and others who say they do not want to recycle and they do not care. He said he did not think we can make this decision without coming to the citizenry for a public meeting. He suggested the Civic Center for a meeting. He said he would like to invite the Republic Service people, Advanced Disposal people and Commissioners to be there. He said to do this successfully we have to ask the citizens. He asked Chamber Director Sandra Hall to help with the promotion for the meeting.

Chamber Director Sandra Hall said she would help.

Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert asked if there was anyway to poll our citizens. She asked about a questionnaire to determine where their breaking point is. She said at the \$2.53 fee, most people do not mind.

Mayor Tim Pospichal said in his experience, to poll one on one would take a long time and would move so slow and people do not respond.

Commissioner Keith Cowie said he liked the idea of a forum where they can present the case and can get some feedback. If you send out an email survey and state the fee would be \$7.00, you would get a lot of no's, if they do not understand the reason. He asked as far as a contract is concerned and what we are being asked tonight, if we do not approve the contract tonight what transpires. He said he knew we were under contract through 2019, but thought they would have a clause to terminate the contract.

City Manager Green said either party may give a 90-day notice to terminate the contract. Their proposal does suggest an October 1 rate increase. We do have some time to get to the October 1 date. It is important we come to decision here, through the contract. The City Attorney has been in some of our meetings and looked at the contract. The Contract is a fixed rate through another year. If we were to ignore that and Advanced were to accept that, we would be in October 2019 and the customer would see even more of an increase.

Commissioner Keith Cowie said he did not feel comfortable to okay that type of rate increase until we have some type of public forum and he was able to get more feedback.

City Manager Green said we will get with Sandra Hall at the Chamber to get with her Board to host the Public meeting. He said he thought it was a great suggestion, as the business community has a role to play – as they will see that increase as well. He said in a survey, we do not get the opportunity to educate. He suggested the Public meeting will be something similar to the DOT presentation in a forum and at certain points to have some presentation. He said Debbie Mulling has suggested she has done meetings continuously over the last month on this matter.

Mayor Tim Pospichal suggested showing items that are no longer being recycled. He asked the Commissioners if they felt this would be a good idea for a Public meeting. He asked if the Commissioners could attend and if Republic and Advanced could be there.

City Manager Green said if we bring this item to the Commission on the first meeting in August, we could bring a contract to the second meeting in August. He asked Advanced Disposal if that was workable with them under the contract.

Gary Brown, with Advanced Disposal, nodded yes.

City Manager Green asked what particular night the Commission would like for the Public meeting. He said using social media, we post something like the vendor has brought this to our attention and the Commission suggested we want to hear from the citizens.

The consensus was either Tuesday or Thursday and possible dates were July 17, 19, 24, or 26.

Mayor Tim Pospichal said he thought we needed to move on this quickly.

City Manager Green said if that was the directive of the Commission, he would be glad to work on that.

**Motion** by Commissioner Keith Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert, to set up a public forum to discuss the recycling possible rate increase changes, as soon as possible.

Commissioner Richard Hamann said we want to have Advanced Disposal and Republic Services at that meeting.

City Manager Green said they are both nodding that they will attend. He said we are not looking at a Public Hearing, for more informational.

Upon vote, all ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are true and correct.

  
Shirley A. Lowrance, Finance Director/City Clerk