

CITY OPERATIONS

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 – 6:10 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Panus, Alderman Gonzalez, Alderman Dougherty, and Alderman Anastasia. Others: Alderman Witte; Alderman Crawford, Mayor William Aiello; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief; Tim Richardson, Fire Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Smith called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Committee Meetings (Tuesday, February 4, 2020)

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2020 meeting was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Anastasia. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Discussion – Refuse Contract (Ring)

Mr. Ring explained that he thought that it would be a good idea to hear feedback that the Council had received after the previous discussion regarding the refuse contract, and to get an update as to where we are at. He explained that he has received feedback as well. Mr. Ring explained that the City has met with Casella, the City's current contractor, and has the idea of a prospective pre bid meeting with other haulers to get their thoughts as well.

Mr. Ring explained that he feels that the sticker program needs to stay, as too many people use it. He suggests possibly going with a hybrid program that allows for toters for people that may want to take advantage of that, as well as the continued sticker program. He noted that this would then probably require an exclusive contract with the contracted hauler. He explained that this would be a benefit because there would only be one refuse company on the streets breaking down the streets and creating noise pollution. He explained that there are currently a couple of different companies that are picking up toters that residents hire, and he feels it

would be better if the City regulated the company, as well as collected the revenue that we could possibly receive. He explained that he would like Council feedback, as the bids should be opened by May 1st in order to allow for the contractor to get stickers made and bins ordered in time for a June 1st contract start date.

Alderman Crawford confirmed that there have been a number of residents that have asked that the Council doesn't take away the sticker system. HE explained that there is a fondness and affordability of the sticker system for those who only have one small bag a week, but he really likes the idea of the hybrid option. He explained that rentals could include trash removal in the charge for rent, and then provide a toter for the resident's use.

Alderman Witte explained that she got the same feedback, that elderly residents don't want to see stickers gone, and don't want to see yard waste taken away. Mayor Aiello noted that Casella picks up yard waste, and it is a part of the current contract, as is picking up trash in City receptacles.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that it seems that the hybrid option is the one that he would see used the most. He explained that it allows a resident to determine if purchasing stickers or using a bin is more cost efficient for them. HE explained that once the initial contract is established, there are other avenues that the Council can go down. He explained that the end goal is to encourage people to put out garbage.

Alderman Anastasia explained that he has had a lot of calls asking that stickers not be taken away, and Alderman Dougherty agreed that stickers should stay. He explained that he has been mulling back and forth about the idea of a "hybrid" system because a resident can already call and get a toter. He explained that the only change would be exclusivity in the contract, which eliminates free market but would also eliminate calls about multiple trash trucks on a street in a week. He explained that some elderly constituents had an issue with the idea of having to have trash on the corner in a lidded container, because it makes it difficult for them to get it to the curb.

Alderman Witte asked about Casella's zero sort recycling, and Mayor Aiello explained that their recycling is taken somewhere near Rochester to a sorting facility. He explained that the company is actively working all the time to find new vendors for recyclables that they pick up.

Alderman Witte asked if the City is going to invite companies to speak with the Council, and Mayor Aiello explained that he feels that this is what Mr. Ring is trying to do with the idea of a pre bid meeting. Alderman Crawford asked if this would be open to multiple vendors, and Mr. Ring explained that the meeting would be advertised and open to all vendors.

Alderman Smith explained that he has had more reaction to this topic than he has in anything in a long time. He explained that he sees the benefit to both systems. He noted that if people want to do toters that they can now.

Mayor Aiello explained that he feels that giving exclusivity to a contractor will result in more favorable bids. Alderman Crawford explained that he feels that economies of scale would result in more favorable bids. He explained that if it is easier for a constituent to pay monthly, they can choose the totter option. He really likes this hybrid option.

Alderman Panus asked if this was a ten year contract, and Mr. Ring responded that it was a six year contract with two 2-year options, and the City took advantage of both extension options. Alderman Panus asked if there is a standard yearly price increase built into the contract. Mayor Aiello explained that when he had spoken with Casella, they had not instituted an authorized price increase and were going to wait for new bids. Mayor Aiello explained that they do have price increases and can have cost of living adjustments. Mr. Ring noted that it is an escalation clause in the contract. He noted that the biggest issue is that trash is hauled cheaper than recycling now.

Alderman Panus asked if residents pay for recycling in the City, and Mayor Aiello responded that we do not. He explained that the City currently receives around \$20,000 a year as the City's percentage of sales of garbage stickers. He explained that Casella picks up recycling as well, picks up yard waste in the summer and picks up the City's street containers as well.

Mayor Aiello explained that he thinks that in order to give everyone a fair chance, a pre bid meeting should be done to hear what hauling companies have to say. After this time, he explained, the City can come up with specifications for the bid, and the bid document can be sent out. He explained that he does not know how many companies the City will see respond, but he can think of three potential companies. He noted that he thinks that the exclusivity would be residential only, not commercial.

5. Approval of Committee Reports

None

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:25 p.m.