

SMITHVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMAN

WORK SESSION

April 5, 2021 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held via teleconference.

The meeting was streamed live on the city's FaceBook page.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Boley, present via Zoom, called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present via Zoom meeting: Steve Sarver, Marv Atkins, Melissa Wilson, Dan Ulledahl, and Jeff Bloemker. John Chevalier was absent.

Staff present via Zoom: Cynthia Wagner, Anna Mitchell, Chuck Soules, Chief Jason Lockridge, Matt Denton, Stephen Larson and Linda Drummond.

2. Discussion of Solid Waste Services

Chuck Soules, Public Works Director introduced Tom Coffman with GFL/WCA who was in attendance this evening. He noted that in February the Board discussed that the current contract with WCA (now GLF/WCA) and will expire in March 2022 and that in the agreement the city would have to provide six months' notice prior to any cancellation of the contract or change of service. At that time staff presented to the Board an outline current levels of service and asked the Board if they wanted staff to talk to GFL/WCA about extending the contract or if they wanted staff to look for other proposals. Staff wanted to do this far enough in advance so that if the decision is to go out for bid, we can still provide appropriate six months' notice.

Staff sat down with Tom Coffman to discuss some of the items the Board had expressed desire for, including downtown recycling, some type of rate reduction, e-waste events, stickers on the lid describing what is recyclable and maybe disincentives for additional trash carts. GFL/WCA came back with a proposal that is included the agenda packet. The proposal includes a 5-year extension with an annual automatic renewal and:

- Extends the current contract for a term beginning November 1, 2021 and ending October 31, 2026.
- The first-year rate would be to \$17.98 per month with a 10% discount for city-approved seniors -they would have to apply and provide proof of age (current cost is 19.51).

- Contract would allow for annual increases not to exceed the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) – Garbage and Trash Collection.
- Maintain current service levels and limits (trash, recycling, yard waste).
- GFL will provide a trash overage sticker program for additional trash bags (for limited high use periods, eliminating need for second trash cart).
- Utilize existing trash and recycling carts, and replace carts as needed.
- To incentivize recycling, the monthly price for an extra trash cart would be \$10.
- Continue the twice-yearly bulky item collection program.
- Establish a downtown cardboard recycling program at no cost to the City.
- Sponsor an annual paper shredding and e-waste recycling event at no cost to the City (fees may apply for certain items).
- Deliver mid-year and year-end reports on local solid waste issues.
- Include auto-renewal contract language that provides non-renewal opportunities (with notice).
- Apply decals to recycling carts that detail acceptable and unacceptable material.

Staff did survey some other communities regarding cost and service level. The comparisons of services vary for what other communities are getting. Chuck said that with the City's contract we are in the middle on the list. We are not the cheapest nor are we the most expensive, but we do receive a lot of services with this contract. He noted if you compare the services GFL/WCA's proposal looks pretty good but said the decision is up to the Board.

Staff is looking for direction from the Board here tonight if they wish to continue with those negotiations and bring back a contract to the Board for continuation of the service with the GFL/WCA or would the Board prefer staff to do another option or solicit proposals?

Mayor Boley stated he appreciated everything in this proposal, it has a lot of things we have asked for. He noted he was sure staff would work out the details on frequency and locations for cardboard recycling. When it comes to cardboard, he knows that Price Chopper takes care of their own, Porter's has been taking some cardboard for recycling. Businesses farther south of the City and downtown have a lot of cardboard that could be recycled instead of ending up in the dumpster.

Trash & Recycling Comparison

		Exc. Springs	Kearney	Liberty	Platte City	Raymore	Smithville
Contract With	Residential	Allied Waste	Republic	Republic	City of Platte City	Constable Sanitation	GFL Environmental (WCA)
	Commercial	no	no	no	yes (city limits only)	no	no
What is Collected Curbside?							
	trash	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes - \$14.45 mthy	yes
	cart provided?	65 gal	65 gal	65 gal	no cart	yes	yes
	additional cart fee?	\$3.00 mth	\$2.63/ mo				\$5.00 mth
	recycle	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes - \$5.20 mthly	yes
	cart provided?	65 gal	65 gal	65 gal	95 gal	yes	yes
	additional cart fee?	\$3.00 mth	no	no	one cart	one cart only	no
	glass?	no	no	no	no	no	no
	compost	no	\$137.70 annually	added fee*	no	yes - \$12.95 mthy	yes
	tires	no	no	no	no	no	no
collection frequency							
	trash	weekly	weekly	weekly	weekly	weekly	weekly
	recycle	weekly	weekly	weekly	weekly	weekly	weekly
	compost	drop off only	weekly April -Nov.	weekly	\$20 / pick up	weekly	weekly **
Bulky Item	included in cost?	no*	yes	yes	add cost depend on item, couch \$40, fridge \$60	yes	yes
	frequency	drop-off only		by appt. - 2x yr	1X per year	1 item 1X each month	2X per year
		cash print at time of drop off					
Cost of Service		\$23.65	\$14.61	\$17.70	\$15.00	\$19.65	\$19.90
						\$19.65 trash & recycle	
	senior discount?	no	yes	yes	no	no	no
			\$4 per month	50% reduction			
Other							
Recycling Drop Off?		yes	yes	yes			no
Compost Drop Off?		yes	yes	tree limbs only	yes - \$20 annually		no
Participate in HHW?		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Recycle Glass Drop Off?		unknown	unknown	yes	yes	yes	yes
Population		11,000	10,000	31,779	4700	19,206	10,000
Special Notes	Excel. Springs	*appliances can be dropped off at recycle site other items are charged per item.					**modified during winter months
	Gladstone	* residents choose from 3 companies Republic, KC Waste or Deffenbaugh					
	Kearney	offers refrigerator recycling					
	Liberty	*compost cost is \$205.95 annually or \$51.48 per quarter 85 gallon yard waste tote supplied by Republic if using the tote they add 5 additional yard waste if NOT using the cart there is a 10 bag limit each week NO Cart pick up Jan -March due to moisture concerns					
	Parkville	* residents choose from 4 companies host Spring & Fall "clean up" events yard waste drop off in Gladstone					
	Platte City	Residential service provided by City within City limits Commercial service provided by City and private waste companies * trees can be put with bulky pick-up Can pay for additional bulky item pick up					
	Raymore	***** residents can put up to 4 bags out with the cart fee for trash, recycle & yard waste = \$32.60 mthly Electronic recycling event held annually					

Alderwoman Wilson had a question about the definition of city approved seniors, but Chuck had covered it and guessed that City staff would move forward with what that definition would definitely be so it will be in print for anyone to see if they questioned it.

Chuck said that in the City of Lawrence it is 65 and older. We can have it that they bring in proof of their age such as a driver's license and they make a request.

Alderwoman Wilson asked if the consumer price index was what the price would increase annually?

Chuck said that was correct.

Alderwoman Wilson asked if the sticker program was a program where residents could buy additional to have on hand as needed?

Tom Coffman explained that they have this program in a lot of communities, in some areas they work with retailers or people can go to City Hall and purchase them. They can call or email GFL/WCA customer service and order and pay with a credit card and they will mail them. He said he believed last he heard it was around \$6.00 for a sheet of five stickers. They can then be used when they have episodic overages.

Alderwoman Wilson noted in looking at the comparison pricing chart, GFL/WCA's current services to compared to other communities, she likes everything she see here but is wondering if the 10% discount for seniors could be raised to 25%. She explained that the 10% discount for seniors is not quite \$2 and wondered if it could be looked at and maybe go up to 20 or 25%?

Chuck explained that one of the concerns is we just do not know what the usage is going to be for seniors. He said it is one thing if it is 10 or 20 residences and another if it is two or three thousand residences. He suggested that what we could do is roll it out for first year at 10% and then maybe the Board have a provision in the contract with GFL/WCA that we would revisit the senior discount and calculate what the usage actual is to see if it justifies a higher discount.

Alderwoman Wilson noted on the price comparison chart, compared to cities that both use the same service, one has a \$4 reduction, their population is comparable to Smithville the other has a 50% deduction by they have a lot more population. Noting the difference in the discounts, she would like to be able to improve the 10% senior discount in the future. She ended that in doing the comparison she believes with what GFL/WCA has come to us with and the extras that the Board had ask for she is fine if we do not go back out for bid.

Alderman Sarver said that he has been very happy with WCA and that with this proposal they have added about everything asked for. He is okay with staff bringing forward a contract with GFL/WCA.

Alderman Atkins agreed he had no issue with WCA and had no problems at all nor heard any issues with their service. He approved of the new agreement.

Alderman Ulledahl said that everything he read looked good and thanked staff for going into detail and working hard on this.

Mayor Boley asked Alderman Ulledahl about his experience with cardboard.

Alderman Ulledahl said that his business does have an issue with disposing of cardboard, they do not have any room in their alley for a dumpster. He would love to have a cardboard recycling container close by maybe closer to City Hall or somewhere in that vicinity that he could send it over there every evening when they close. He went on to explain that the truck they received today had 70 cartons on it and pretty much all of the cartons were cardboard.

Mayor Boley stated he spoke with couple other business downtown that receive shipments and have quite a bit of cardboard to dispose of. He agreed that somewhere near City Hall would be a good location for the cardboard recycle container, somewhere it can be monitored.

Alderman Ulledahl suggested it be located somewhere with easy access, that vehicles can drive up to because some business will have several boxes to dispose of at a time. He agreed that it will need to be able to be monitored.

Alderman Bloemker said he appreciated what he heard and noted we have had good service and WCA has been responsive, so he supports moving forward.

Tom Coffman said how much they liked working with Smithville, it is a great community, and it is a good fit for them. He really enjoyed working through this process with staff and he is excited that the Board wants to continue moving forward. He said this was great news for him and for GFL/WCA.

Mayor Boley appreciated the waste diversion pieces of the proposal, adding the e-waste and shredding events. He said that the Chamber of Commerce does some shredding events, but their vendor does not have the capacity for what we need

Chuck said he believes staff has the direction from the Board and will contact GFL/WCA to will continue the negotiation. Staff will also look to be reviewing the senior discount after the first year.

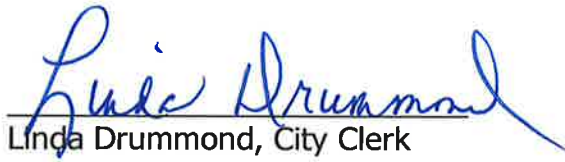
Mayor Boley suggested looking at the City demographic data to see what the City's senior households look like. He said that some of the City's seniors live at the Housing Authority and they use the dumpsters at those facilities provide not WCA's services. He noted that the actual senior households that might be eligible for the discount do not probably generate three bins of trash like some other residences might.

Chuck said staff will bring a contract forward sometime late spring or early summer.

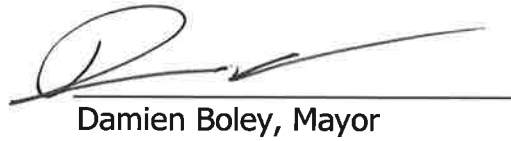
3. **Adjourn**

Alderman Sarver moved to adjourn. Alderman Ulledahl seconded the motion.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, motion carries. Mayor Boley declared the Work Session adjourned at 6:44 p.m.



Linda Drummond, City Clerk



Damien Boley, Mayor