

**Belton City Council Workshop Meeting
August 14, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.**

The Belton City Council met in workshop session in the Smith Room at the Harris Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Marion Grayson, Mayor Pro Tem Craig Pearson and Councilmembers David K. Leigh, Dan Kirkley, Guy O'Banion, John R. Holmes, Sr. and Wayne Carpenter. Staff present included Sam Listi, Amy Casey, Gene Ellis, Brandon Bozon, Paul Romer, Angellia Points, Susan Allamon and Amanda Cox.

1. **Call to order.** Mayor Marion Grayson called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. **Hold a work session on solid waste collection and recycling.**

City Manager Sam Listi and Director of Finance Brandon Bozon provided an overview of the current solid waste collection and recycling contract between the City of Belton and Waste Management. The City contracted with Waste Management for a period of five years and has the ability to extend the contract for two additional one-year periods. The rates are adjusted each year based on the CPI. Listi explained that the contract is nearing the end of the original five years, and Staff is seeking direction from Council in either renewing the contract for an additional year or seeking new proposals.

Mr. Listi introduced Paul Daugereau and Daniel Rumsey of Waste Management. Mr. Rumsey and Mr. Daugereau explained changes that have taken place in Waste Management operations to help alleviate some of the issues customers in Belton have had, especially on the recycling collection routes. Some of the issues are the result of switching to automated side loading trucks. These trucks have a smaller compaction ratio than the prior trucks which has caused them to make more trips for unloading the compactor which in turn has caused collection disruption.

Mr. Listi asked them to discuss where they are taking the recyclables given the volatile market. Mr. Daugereau said that originally Waste Management was taking the recyclables to Temple Iron and Metal which was run at that time by Balcones. Temple has taken over the facility and are running it themselves now. Temple increased the cost significantly, so Waste Management is researching other vendors who will receive Belton's recyclables.

Mr. Rumsey talked about the markets available for each type of recyclable. He said there is a good market for cardboard. There was some discussion about whether the City should have a drop off location for cardboard. Mr. Rumsey said the City could have a bulk collection day, and it could include a drop off for cardboard. Councilmember Holmes explained that he didn't want to have to store his personal cardboard until it was time for a bulk event.

Director of Public Works Angellia Points explained that the City has six bulk collection events each year. At the bulk collection events, Staff passes out informational flyers letting the public know about all the services offered. Mayor

Grayson said that she had forgotten about the household hazardous waste pickup service. Mr. Daugerau said the program is called “At Your Door Special Collection.” He said Waste Management has printed literature that the City could distribute at the bulk events.

Mr. Rumsey said if the City wants to consider having a facility for cardboard, a baler would be needed. Additionally, the cardboard would need to be stored under cover so as to not be contaminated. He said the sale of cardboard ranges from \$90 to \$120 per ton. Mr. Daugerau said if the City desires to pursue this option, he suggests sending the cardboard directly to the mills for a better rate. Waste Management offered to provide additional information if so desired.

Councilmember Holmes said he read on the Waste Management website about a service where Waste Management provides a tarp that can be utilized for small construction projects. Mr. Daugereau said that service is called a “bagster” service. Mr. Holmes said that he has heard a lot of complaints from residents who are not able to dispose of their small construction debris. Mr. Rumsey said the service is available, but it has not been implemented in Belton. If that is something the City is interested in, it could be added. Basically, Waste Management has bags for sale at local hardware/home repair stores. The resident utilizes the bag to dispose of their leftover construction debris, and then calls or schedules a pickup online with Waste Management.

Mr. Daugereau said the City doesn’t have a true bulk pickup service, but instead allows residents to place up to three items outside of the container. If the City wants to add bulk service collection instead of allowing the three items outside of the container, then Waste Management could come by once a month to pick up three cubic yards or less from each residence.

Councilmember Leigh asked what it generally costs to process trash versus recycling. Mr. Rumsey said that at this time, it costs approximately three times as much to process recyclables as it does to process trash. Mr. Leigh asked if it is better to have mixed recyclables or would it make sense to separate recyclables. Mr. Daugereau said that getting away from single stream mixed recyclables would most likely decrease participation. He explained that is what happened in Austin. He added that the cost would go up as well because it requires a separate collection trip for each type of recyclable.

Councilmember Leigh said there have been a lot of missed pickups. There needs to be better communication if there will be a service disruption. He asked if there was a communication mechanism that could be utilized to spread the word about rescheduled pickups, holiday disruptions, etc. Councilmember O’Banion said Waste Management needs an app. Mr. Rumsey said they have a portal on their website specifically for each City. They are working on getting it rolled out to all their customers.

Mr. Leigh asked what customers needed to do in order to replace a broken container. Mr. Daugereau said that they needed to call the City, and the City calls Waste Management. Waste Management makes cart deliveries on Wednesdays. Councilmember Holmes asked why the drivers couldn't replace them. Mr. Rumsey said he has recently advised the drivers to call in to the office when they come across a broken container.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson asked if Waste Management is able to increase productivity by utilizing automated side loaders, could once a month bulk collection be added at no additional cost. Mr. Daugereau said it is something that can be considered, but he would need to work through the numbers.

Mayor Grayson thanked Mr. Daugereau and Mr. Rumsey for what they have done to rectify some of the issues.

Assistant City Manager/Chief of Police Gene Ellis said the City's Code Compliance Officers are actually trying to pick up some of the bulky waste to get it off the streets, especially when the residents are unable to take care of the situation themselves. He said a once a month bulk day is something that needed.

Director of Public Works Angellia Points said the bulk events hosted by Public Works are very successful. She recommended that recycling containers be placed at the Public Works facility, and then Staff could possibly sort the recyclables there. She also said there needs to be a way to accept household hazardous waste at these events because they don't like to turn residents away.

Mr. Daugereau said that Waste Management helps with funding for hazardous waste collections days. The money is distributed through CTCOG. Mayor Grayson asked Staff to look into obtaining funding for a hazardous waste collection event in Belton.

Councilmember O'Banion asked if there was enough recycling to look at once per week collection. Mayor Grayson said that Director of Finance Brandon Bozon suggested that additional carts can be obtained for those who have larger recycling needs. City Manager Sam Listi agreed that having a second recycling cart would be more reasonable than requiring everyone to pay a higher fee when some may not have a need for once per week recycling collection. Mr. O'Banion asked that a once per week recycling collection be priced as a part of any renewal. He added that it is hard to remember which week recycling will be collected. Public Information Officer Paul Romer said that Staff recommends setting up a recurring reminder on your smart phone.

Mr. Rumsey and Mr. Daugereau thanked the Council for allowing them the opportunity to discuss issues and resolutions.

After a short break, City Manager Sam Listi explained to the Council that Staff is asking for direction as to whether there is a desire to renew the contract for one year

or to solicit proposals through a Request for Proposals process. Councilmember O'Banion said Waste Management seems to do a pretty good job overall.

Councilmember Leigh asked if the City could manage their own solid waste services and provide a better service at a better rate. Mr. Listi said while there is potential for money to be made, there is also a large capital investment, and the City will have the same personnel issues that Waste Management and others are having. He said, "I'm not saying never, but I wonder if now is the right time to do something like this, especially with the challenges we have revenue-wise at this time."

Councilmember Carpenter said that when the contract was first awarded, the Finance Department ran all the numbers, and even though there was a little money to be made, the personnel issues and other considerations were pretty substantial. Mr. O'Banion said right now Waste Management assumes all the risk, and the City has zero risk. Mr. Leigh said the Staff now is more management level compared to the Staff of the past, and he asked for Staff's opinion on whether doing this would be a benefit to the City or not.

Councilmember Kirkley said Waste Management does solid waste; the City of Belton does not. Mr. Listi said there are pros and cons for both. Mr. O'Banion said right now the City is the customer, so if there are problems, we can call Waste Management to fix it.

Director of Finance Brandon Bozon explained that Staff can provide a good analysis of taking over the solid waste and recycling collection, but he said that it probably could not be done in the next three months. He said perhaps it could be done in the next year and three months, basically recommending a one year contract extension with Waste Management. Mr. Listi said a one year extension makes sense. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson agreed that a one-year extension was needed.

Councilmember Leigh said that if Waste Management and other solid waste companies realize that the City is considering taking over solid waste collection, the City should receive several competitive proposals in the future.

Mr. Bozon said that Waste Management is committed to recycling, and they have more weight to throw around than the City of Belton. He mentioned that another City was having to eliminate their recycling program because they could not find a company to take the recyclables.

There was some discussion about customer confusion as to what items can be put out for collection and when, or if, it will be picked up. Most believed that adding a once a month bulk collection service would be good.

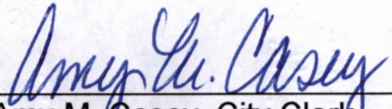
Mr. Leigh said it would be good for the City have an opt-in text messaging system to communicate with the citizens about different things like Solid Waste.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.



Marion Grayson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Amy M. Casey, City Clerk