

**BELTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2012**

The Belton City Council met in special session with the following members present: Mayor Jim Covington, Mayor Pro Tem Marion Grayson, Councilmembers Clifton Peters, David K. Leigh, Wayne Carpenter, Craig Pearson, and John Agan. There were no members absent. Staff present were John Messer, Sam Listi, Connie Torres, Cristy Daniell, Les Hallbauer, Gene Ellis, Bruce Pritchard, Byron Sinclair, Rex Robertson, Jerri Gauntt, Kim Kroll, Sandy Slade, Charlotte Walker, and Denny Lassetter.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Hold a work session regarding the recycling program.

Assistant City Manager Cristy Daniell gave an overview of the recycling pilot program which ran initially for 90 days (August-October 2011). The project included four Belton neighborhoods, utilizing 96-gallon carts for weekly garbage service, with weekly curbside, mixed-stream recycling. At the end of the pilot, staff met with Waste Management representatives who agreed to leave project components in place, pending a report to and guidance from the City Council. Ms. Daniell indicated a survey was sent to participants and posted on the City website, and she reviewed the results and feedback.

Terry Woodson and Daniel McBurney of Waste Management were both on hand to answer any questions and present additional information as needed. The following public comments were received regarding the program:

Name	Address	General Comments
Maria Nieves	2105 Madison Court	Absolutely loved it, and realized 80% of her trash was recyclable and 20% trash.
Bert Peeples	1220 N. Wall	Commended the City and is eager to have a recycling program here, as he's tired of hauling it elsewhere.
Clara Wood	148 Circle Drive	Very pleased with the recycling pilot. She read a letter signed by residents in the neighborhood of Circle Drive, 9th Avenue, and Continental, requesting an ordinance requiring residents to remove trash/recycling containers from the side of the road within a reasonable amount of time following collection.
Ellen Keaney	422 Armstrong Drive	Thinks the program is fantastic; she believes recycling is important and was very pleased with the service.
Walter Neaves	513 E. 26th Avenue	Wasn't unhappy with the old service; it's hard to get the cart up and down his steep driveway, and he doesn't have a place to store it. Thinks the carts do not look good, and he would like to see the cost implications of a recycling program.
Marvin Loris	126 Circle Drive	He needs to discuss his issue with Waste Management directly.
Ted McKissick	602 E. 27th Avenue	Doesn't like the carts being outside as they're too large for his garage; he thinks rinsing containers is a waste of water.
P.W. Wood	148 Circle Drive	Reiterated the need for carts to be moved out of the street, as his neighbors do not.
Joe Scanlon	2404 N. Beal	Suggested separate bins to provide sorting on the spot, instead of afterwards at a recycling facility.
Sandy Neaves	513 E. 26th Avenue	Complimented Waste Management for its service.

The City Manager thanked the citizens involved in the pilot program and Ms. Daniell for her work on the project. He indicated once cost and contract implications are developed, staff will present additional information to the Council for recommendation regarding the potential expansion of recycling and cart service in Belton. Mr. Listi stated other identified service issues, to include an ordinance regarding container removal, will also be researched.

Mayor Pro Tem Grayson expressed a concern with once-a-week pickup, the potentially full carts and odor from items such as dirty diapers. Ms. Woodson stated this

is one of the few areas that still has twice-a-week pickup and she believes few issues result from once-a-week service. Councilmember Leigh asked about response level of the recycling survey, and Ms. Daniell indicated about 30% replied, which she felt was a good return rate. Mr. Leigh asked about the availability of different cart sizes, and Ms. Woodson explained there is an option for a 64-gallon cart, which would also work with the automated side-loader trucks. She stated WM will definitely have smaller carts for special needs customers, and can also look at options if customers would like to switch to a smaller cart. Mr. McBurney indicated the program is originally designed around 96-gallon carts, which is standard across the industry. If automated side-loaders are used in the future, there could be some mechanism issues with the different sized carts.

Councilmember Carpenter asked about sorting recyclables, and Ms. Woodson explained they used the sort method for years, but going to single stream has allowed the company to take care of more homes at one time. With continually improving equipment and technology, they are seeing very good results with the single stream system, with little contamination. Ms. Woodson added WM's new recycling facilities (Arlington, Austin, Houston, and San Antonio) are all single stream, as it is the most cost effective, and the participation rate for single stream is also much higher. In closing, she clarified rinsing containers is not necessary, but only a recommendation to help alleviate odor.

Ms. Daniell thanked the recycling participants for their good nature and support throughout the pilot program. No action was taken.

At 6:23 p.m. the Council took a short recess. (Councilmember Leigh stepped out of the meeting at this time and returned at 6:45 p.m.) At 6:30 p.m. the meeting was reconvened and the Mayor announced the Council would go into executive session and closed the meeting for the following:

Executive Sessions pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Govt. Code, Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, in accordance with the authority contained in the following:

A. Section 551.071, to consult with the City Attorney;

The second closed session began at 6:58 p.m.

B. Section 551.086, to discuss economic development negotiations; and

The third closed session began at 7:05 p.m.

C. Section 551.074, regarding personnel.

At 7:25 p.m., the meeting was reopened and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Jim Covington, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Connie Torres, City Clerk