

**BELTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 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 (arrived 5:45 p.m.), Wayne Carpenter, Craig Pearson, and John Agan. There were no members absent. Staff present were John Messer, Sam Listi, Erin Newcomer, Cristy Daniell, Les Hallbauer, Gene Ellis, Francisco Corona, Jerri Gauntt, Sarah Maddaford, Sandy Slade, Charlotte Walker, and Denny Lassetter.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag was led by Fire Chief Francisco Corona, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag was led by Councilmember Clifton Peters, and the Invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Marion Grayson.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Receive public input on the City of Belton Strategic Plan Update, FY 2013-2018.

The City Manager gave a brief summary of the goals identified in the Strategic Plan, the City's revised Mission Statement, and an overview of key elements. He stated the Strategic Plan will be considered for adoption at the September 11th meeting in conjunction with budget adoption, with implementation to begin October 1st.

David Jackson, 1616 Cedar Tree Lane, asked where the money is coming from for the items in the Strategic Plan. The Mayor indicated funding sources are identified annually in the budget or through grant opportunities. Mr. Jackson stated his taxes were increased after an item was voted down twice, and he doesn't think that's how it's supposed to be done. The Mayor stated the City has decreased its tax rate by 17¢ in the last 20 years, and suggested he may be referring to the Bell County tax rate. Mayor Pro Tem Grayson added the School District's tax rate is also included in Mr. Jackson's tax statement.

There were no other comments regarding the Strategic Plan. No action was taken.

Hold a public hearing for the City of Belton Budget for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2012, and ending September 30, 2013.

Assistant City Manager Cristy Daniell gave a brief overview of the proposed budget, to include a summary of all funds, an overview of the tax roll, historical tax data, and a summary of the City's bonded debt. The Mayor opened the public hearing. There were no comments regarding the proposed budget, therefore the hearing was closed.

Presentation of a Proposal from Waste Management for recycling and cart-based garbage service.

Assistant City Manager Cristy Daniell gave an overview of the recycling pilot program conducted last summer by the City and Waste Management (WM) in four Belton neighborhoods containing about 270 households. She reviewed collection statistics during the pilot, and indicated a survey was conducted among the pilots and any other interested citizens at the end of the 90 days to gauge results. The survey showed that most respondents were overwhelmingly supportive of the project, and wanted to see it expanded city-wide.

Ms. Daniell explained WM has provided the City a proposal, and reviewed the following options:

- Continue with status quo service of twice weekly refuse pickups and no recycling;
- Switch to a cart-based system of:
 - Option 1: 1 x week regular refuse service and 1 x bi-weekly (every other week) recycling pickup
 - Option 2: 1 x week regular refuse and 1 x week recycling
 - Option 3: 2 x week regular refuse and 1 x week recycling
 - Option 4: 1 x week regular refuse and 1 x week bin recycling

(Option 2 represents the service level provided during the pilot.)

Ms. Daniell explained selection of any of these options would require a five year contract extension to justify capital expenditure by WM for carts, with implementation anticipated in

January 2013. Terri Woodson, WM, added those in the recycling pilot would continue to receive the recycling service until the new contract became effective. Ms. Daniell indicated the Council could also pursue other options such as maintaining the current regular non-cart based service with cart/bin recycling, re-establishing centralized drop-off location(s) for recycling, and City-provided trash/recycling service. She requested Council input on these options, and indicated a public hearing could be held to solicit input from citizens. Ms. Daniell expressed thanks to those who participated in the pilot program, and thanked WM for providing the pilot at no cost to the City, and for keeping it in place well beyond the three-month period.

Mayor Pro Tem Grayson asked a lady in the audience with a baby, if she was in the pilot program and if once-a-week service with a young child and diapers was adequate. The lady indicated they purchased their home because they saw the recycling carts, but the pilot area turned out to be one block away. She stated their garage is full of recyclables and they are eagerly awaiting a program in all of Belton. She indicated they could easily handle once-a-week trash pickup with no problem.

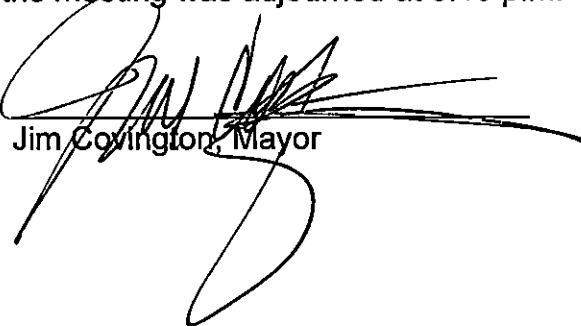
Councilmember Pearson asked what services could be offered to businesses, and Ms. Woodson stated small businesses are offered the same service as residents; big businesses (dumpsters) could be offered recycling service for cardboard only, but implementation of a commercial program is about a year out due to equipment purchase and the need to ensure there will be enough customers. Mayor Pro Tem Grayson asked Councilmember Carpenter (who participated in the pilot) if once-a-week collection was adequate, and Mr. Carpenter indicated they have never filled up their regular trash can while recycling. He stated the recycling can was usually filled more than the regular trash can, and the cans are quite large. Ms. Woodson added larger families can add cart(s) for an additional fee(s).

David Jackson, 1616 Cedar Tree Lane, asked why his bill would increase, as he believes somebody is making money from recycling the materials. Ms. Woodson stated the cost of recycling is misleading, as the materials are a true commodity and the prices fluctuate daily. She indicated the only charge is for the crew to provide the container/ service at residences, not for processing or selling the materials, as WM handles those costs. Joann Gillette, 1703 Canyon Springs, also commented she moved to Belton 20 years ago and has been recycling for the past 37 years.

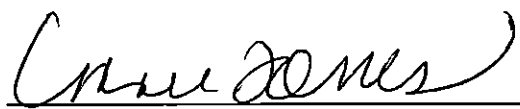
The Mayor stated a public hearing is not scheduled at this meeting, and asked when that could occur. Ms. Daniell stated she would like to prepare a flyer for distribution citywide, and a hearing could be scheduled for either the September 25th or October 9th meeting.

Councilmember Leigh stated that while in this area current landfill space may be cheaper to use, recycling is the smarter thing to do long term considering natural resources, even though a slight uptick in current costs could occur due to implementing recycling. Councilmember Carpenter concurred with Mr. Leigh, and stated the City had a landfill for many years, but won't have another one. Ms. Daniell stated she thinks notices could be sent out soon and a public hearing set for September 25th. Mr. Pearson asked Ms. Woodson to provide incremental numbers for families who might need additional containers, and a ballpark figure for recycling for small businesses. The Council consensus was to move forward with Option 2 used in the pilot program (1 x week regular refuse and 1 x week recycling).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.


Jim Covington, Mayor

ATTEST:


Connie Torres, City Clerk