

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting

3/28/23

4:30 PM

Members:

Chair: Councilor Keith Nyhan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Karen McNamara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Gail Matson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Brent Todd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Paula McLaughlin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eric Steinhauser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nyhan with him noting that four of seven members were present, constituting a quorum.

A motion to accept the meeting minutes of the 3/21/23 meeting was made by Eric Steinhauser and seconded by Councilor McNamara. All approved in a vote and the notes were accepted. Councilor Rice Hawkins arrived.

Councilor Nyhan then moved to the next agenda item, a discussion on the solid waste program and contracts began in the last meeting with a presentation by General Services Staff.

Director Chip Chesley first shared that over the previous contract, it is estimated the City saved \$3.5 million dollars on recyclable processing and \$1 million dollars on disposal. That will continue for the next approximately 1.5 years as the current contract finishes out.

Director Chesley also mentions that going forward the decision to issue separate disposal and collection RFPs will save the City an additional \$1 million.

Mr. Steinhauser asked about multi-family storage of toters, this will be addressed with best practices as the pilot is undertaken.

Mr. Steinhauser also asked about the use of PAYT bags as a transition to automated collection is undertaken. Adam Clark, GSD Staff, answered the pilot is anticipated to include the continued use of PAYT bags in automated collection. Audits will then be conducted to determine compliance levels and if everyone is fully compliant, that is a good thing, if not, we will need to adjust as the pilot continues and as the program is rolled out including PAYT bags are used.

Chairman Nyhan anticipates a lot of work from Staff and the committee in terms of revenue for the Solid Waste Fund. Does it mean PAYT bags, billing by the toter, General Fund. What happens to revenue will be the question going forward. Staff to investigate options.

Councilor Rice Hawkins confirmed that the landfill and incineration were the two disposal options available.

Chairman Nyhan noted that its good that the best available option for the City is in line with the State's ordered preference for solid waste management in the state.

Chairman Nyhan then opened the public hearing.

Resident Ron Raynor congratulated GSD and the committee on a good contract. He described some educational materials he would like to see. He also described some ideas for source separated containers at the transfer station.

Resident Carol Foss advocated for composting options which the committee anticipates hearing more about.

Mary Till discussed her experience in Derry, NH which has a drop-off facility. People sort their own materials.

Following the public hearing, Director Chesley put the following slide up, asking the committee for their support mirroring the Department's recommendations.



Recommendations

- ▶ Flow Control – The Department recommends amending the Solid Waste Ordinance to remove flow control.
- ▶ Disposal – The Department recommends approving the resolution in accordance with RSA 149-M:17, IV.
- ▶ Collection - The Department recommends the City Manager executes the 10-year contract term with Casella to include procurement, deployment and maintenance of the toters.

Director Chesley noted flow control may be outdated and has enforceability issues.

Chairman Nyhan noted the flow control ordinance change seems pretty straight forward for the reasons Director Chesley articulated. Councilor Todd made a motion for the committee to make a recommendation supporting the change. Councilor Rice Hawkins seconded and it was unanimous.

GSD to draft reports and will submit for review by the Chair and submittal to the City Clerk.

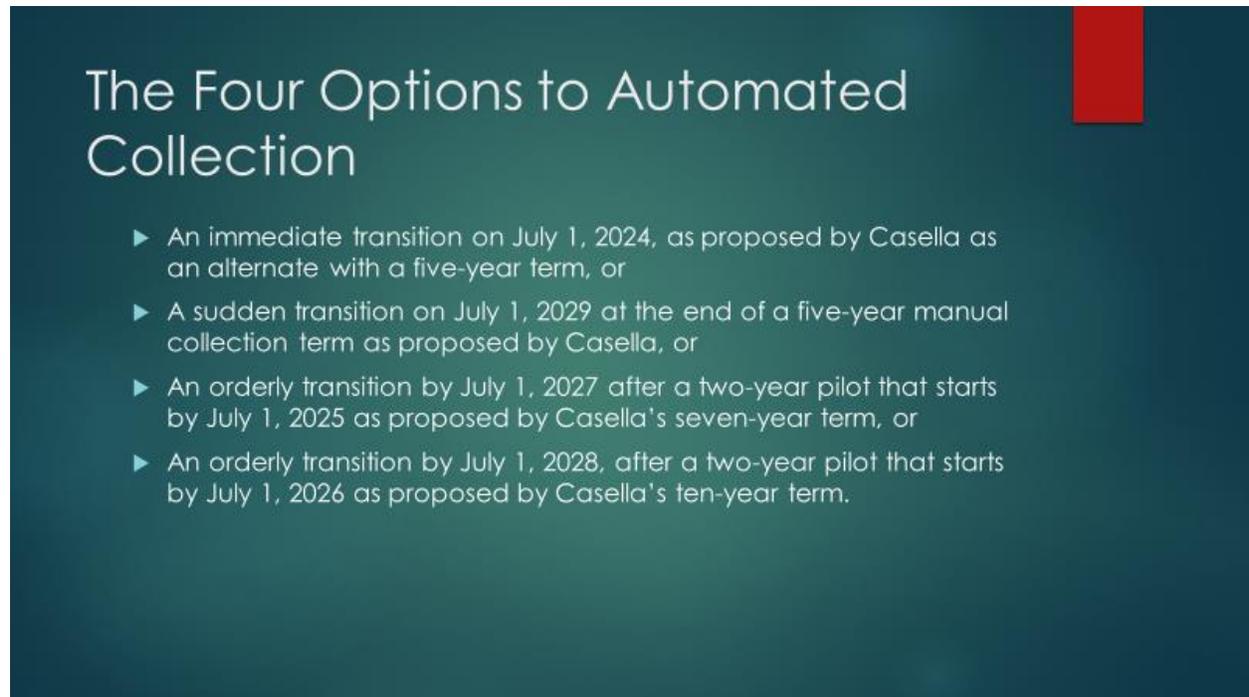
Director Chesley then asked the committee for a recommendation to City Council supporting the Department's recommendation to designate Win-Waste as the City's primary disposal destination in accordance with RSA 149.

Eric Steinhauser asked for clarification. They are not approving the contract, rather the Council will be approving the resolution of the identifying the facility as the disposal location.

Councilor Todd echoed that the lowest cost and higher ordered preference for waste management aligned in this case. He suggested anyone with concerns on the incineration should work with federal government representatives. He also reiterated the need to educate and continue to reduce waste and intends to support.

Councilor Todd made a motion to recommend to the Council the committee supports the GSD recommendation. Councilor Rice Hawkins seconded. Eric Steinhauser abstained from the vote which passed unanimously.

Chairman Nyhan reviewed the following options for collection options.



The Four Options to Automated Collection

- ▶ An immediate transition on July 1, 2024, as proposed by Casella as an alternate with a five-year term, or
- ▶ A sudden transition on July 1, 2029 at the end of a five-year manual collection term as proposed by Casella, or
- ▶ An orderly transition by July 1, 2027 after a two-year pilot that starts by July 1, 2025 as proposed by Casella's seven-year term, or
- ▶ An orderly transition by July 1, 2028, after a two-year pilot that starts by July 1, 2026 as proposed by Casella's ten-year term.

Councilor McNamara spoke about her desire to make sure that the transition goes right and get feedback and input from residents and educate. The last two options provide that.

Eric Steinhauser asked about pricing differences within the proposals. Adam Clark spoke about differences in the 7- and 10-year proposals based on capital infusions occurring at different times. He also pointed to the 10-year proposal being favorable if looking at the non-selected proposers pricing proposal.

Director Chesley spoke about the last contract and the 10-year contract provides price predictability. Only two proposals were received and one was significantly higher.

Chairman Nyhan discussed that a longer contract provides a way to lock into price certainty.

Chip Chesley discussed solid waste costs increasing further in the future.

Councilor Rice Hawkins recognized that the Casella proposal was the only proposer to submit for all services and is leaning towards the 10-year contract because of that and has not heard from residents the desire to cut back on services. She also acknowledges any new waste management technologies will take the better part of 10 years to implement in the region.

Councilor Todd echoed the sentiment to provide the option to take the longest time to implement the transition based on industry changes from manual to automated collection. He reminded residents to reduce, reuse and recycle and the committee's desire to look at help residents reduce by looking at diversion topics. Chairman Nyhan agreed. Educational videos were discussed. These can be used to share information.

Eric Steinhauser discussed all of the changes over the last contract in the solid waste industry. Further changes will take time and a 10-year contract allows things to develop. He discussed the State's waste hierarchy and disposal capacity issues in the State.

Chairman Nyhan supports planning and predictability in the 10-year contract.

Eric Steinhauser reviewed what the recommendation includes. That recommendation will inform the City Council decision on the term in the conditionally awarded contract.

Councilor Todd motioned to support Staff's recommendation and support the term containing an orderly transition to automated collection by July 1, 2028, after a two-year pilot that starts by July 1, 2026 as proposed by Casella's ten-year term. Councilor McNamara seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with Eric Steinhauser abstaining.

The committee will be looking at diversion tops going forward and he will not be at the April Council meeting.

Councilor Rice Hawkins suggested scheduling the next SWAC meeting. Budget season is coming so that means the next meeting will be tentatively July 13th.

The meeting was then adjourned.