

PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JULY 13, 2005 – 7:00 P.M.

Chairman Dikun called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Committee members present were Aldermen Dikun, Perkins, Berg and Leyden. Also present were Mayor Nolan, Aldermen Marzahl, Ulmer and Logan, City Clerk Wells, City Administrator Nelson, representatives from Marengo Disposal and Green Valley Disposal and members of the audience and press.

Garbage Disposal Contract

Randy Blazier of Marengo Disposal addressed the Committee with a brief overview of their proposal, as attached, for a seven year extension of the existing contract which expires December 31, 2005. The proposal will replace the current sticker program with totes for household garbage which would be supplied by Marengo Disposal. Three sizes would be available: 95 gallon tote at \$19.50 per month; 65 gallon tote at \$13.25 per month and a 35 gallon tote for seniors 62 and older at \$6.00 per month. The proposal includes the collection of one (1) bulk item per residence per month. The proposal also provides the following additional services at no cost to the City or residents: city-wide leaf vacuuming service in spring and fall consistent with terms of the existing contract; container service and disposal service for all municipal buildings and parks; container delivery, rental and disposal services for Harvard Milk Days annual festival, HERS annual softball picnic; free disposal for all city churches and monitoring and removal of container overflow in the downtown alleyways.

Mark Van Weelden of Green Valley Disposal addressed the Committee and noted that there are other disposal options available and asked the Committee to consider putting out a Request for Proposal. There was some dialogue between the Committee and Mr. Van Weelden about services they could provide such as recycling, leaf vacuuming and yard waste services to residents. Administrator Nelson clarified the issues before the Committee: consider a contract extension with current contract holder; direct staff to prepare specs for a sealed bid which is a three to four month process or award no contract and let the two companies compete against themselves with residents choosing their own company.

Chairman Dikun opened the meeting to comments/questions from the audience as follows:

- Meg Murray-Bradshaw, 1001 N. Jefferson St. - requested clarification on bulk items; noted she only uses 1 bag every week; proposed that the city change to a bag system using the same type of bags offered by Marengo Disposal in Woodstock which are stronger and would not break open as easy; continue with some sort of financial incentive to recycle as much as possible
- Julie Huffar, 406 N. Jefferson St. - currently only uses 2-3 bags of garbage per month
- Roger Gilbert, 201 W. McKinley St. - not in favor of tote; inquired if seniors who leave for several months during the winter would have to pay the monthly tote fee while they were out of town; inquired if churches would be required to use totes

Areas discussed by the committee:

- reviewed programs/fees for garbage disposal in other area communities
- offer the smaller 35 gallon tote for households other than seniors who do not generate sufficient garbage for the larger totes
- whether or not recycling would be reduced by tote program; general thought was that in addition to financial incentive, recycling is a product of education

Moved by Berg, seconded by Perkins that the Public Property Committee recommend that the City Council accept the proposed contract extension on the terms proposed with one exception: those proposed terms be modified to the smallest tote being available to everybody at a cost of \$6 for seniors and \$8 to anyone else not a senior who opts to use it. Roll call vote: Perkins, aye; Leyden, aye; Berg, aye and Dikun, aye. All ayes. Motion carried.

At 8:12, moved by Berg, seconded by Perkins to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Submitted by:
Chairman Dikun