



Minutes

Committee #4

Recycling, Computerization, Buildings and Intergovernmental Services

Committee #4 met on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 3:00 pm in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 30 West Central Street, Chippewa Falls, WI.

Committee Members present: **Remotely** – Chuck Hull, Paul Olson, and Rob Kiefer

Mayor/Council Members present: **Remotely** – CW King, John Monarski, and Jason Hiess

Others present: **Remotely** –Chippewa County Recycling Coordinator Renee Yohnk, Street and Utility Maintenance Manager Rick Ruf, and City Clerk Bridget Givens.

In-person – Utility Office Manager Connie Freagon.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

1. Public comment regarding the possibility of utilizing a single hauler for waste collection in the City of Chippewa Falls. Possible recommendations to the Council.

Nikki Kuba, 319 E Grand Avenue, indicated she is not in favor of going to one hauler. She expressed concern with the ability to get a larger container and contracting for pick-up of large items. As there would be one hauler for garbage and one for recycling, she felt there would still be impact on the streets due to truck traffic. She prefers to make her own choice relative to waste collection.

Ben Smasal, 324 Coleman Street, indicated he is open to the City contracting with one hauler. Mr. Smasal manages properties on Dutchman Drive and expressed concern with the number of garbage carts that would be at the locations (16) and hopes there would be an alternative container that could be used for the complex. Councilor Hull stated that he assumes Express Disposal would be willing to work with property owners and perhaps offer a dumpster as opposed to the carts in instances such as this.

Pat Pople, 561 Summit Avenue, did not want to make comments and indicated she sent an email to the Committee members. Her email questioned why addresses that are not habited would be required to have garbage service. Utility Office Manager Freagon responded that if a meter is set at a property, and whether the property is occupied or not, they are charged for recycling services. Councilor Hull thought the same would apply to waste collection.

Scot Michels, 1318 Therbrook Street, indicated he is not in favor of going with one hauler. He feels there should be an opt-out available so people are not being charged for a service they do not need. He also expressed concern about there being no competition left to bid when the five-year contract is up. He prefers to make his own choice relative to waste collection.

Janice Janc, 1324 Mansfield Street, indicated she is in favor of going with one hauler; however, she just entered into a contract with a different hauler and is concerned about contract penalties. The Committee was unsure how the different haulers would handle this situation.

The Committee discussed some of the other concerns they received from residents. One of the more prevalent concerns was with alley pick-up. Recycling Coordinator Yohnk indicated that the RFP included alley pick-up for approximately 400 addresses, so that would not be an issue.

Councilor Kiefer stated that of the people he heard from, 20 were in favor of one hauler and eight were against. Councilor Kiefer also opined that he does not feel as though we will be eliminating competition as we would be contracting with the two local garbage companies.

Josh and Jen Gutowski, 545 Irvine Street, questioned who would handle calls and paperwork for the garbage service. Hull indicated the hauler would be taking the calls and complaints and the City would handle the billing. The Gutowski's questioned why the City would not just contract with the one hauler for both recycling and garbage so residents only need to contact one company instead of two. Hull stated the City is obligated to take the low bid, that is why two different haulers would be handling both recycling and garbage. They further indicated that there will still be a number of trucks on the streets when you consider haulers continuing pick up for their commercial customers.

Connie Freagon, 227 W Willow Street, appeared as the owner of a tri-plex. She would be in favor of one garbage hauler if they could have one garbage cart as opposed to three. The three units of garbage would be way more than what they are paying now. She is hoping there could be exceptions for these types of properties.

Councilor Monarski addressed the Committee and discussed the survey that was done on WEAU and the different feedback he has received from residents. The Committee also talked over the letter sent out by Express Disposal.

The Committee discussed the feasibility of placing an advisory referendum on the April 2021 ballot. Clerk Givens indicated it would be possible and that the referendum question would need to be submitted to the filing officer by December 8th.

Motion by Kiefer/Olson to recommend Council approve developing an advisory referendum question for the April 2021 ballot relative to the possibility of the City contracting with a single hauler for waste collection. **All present voting aye, motion carried.**

2. Adjournment

Motion by Kiefer/Olson to adjourn at 3:48 pm. **All present voting aye, motion carried.**

**Minutes submitted by:
Chuck Hull, Chair**