

Approved Minutes of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee
 Thursday, February 26, 2015
 General Services Conference Room – 311 N. State Street

Attending: Councilors: Keith Nyhan (Chair); Amanda Grady Sexton; Gail Matson; Rob Werner;
 Committee Members: Melanie Dorion; and Arthur Aznive.

Absent: Committee Members: Matt Cashman and Mike Russell; Stephen Shurtleff; and Mark Coen.

Staff: City Manager Tom Aspell; Director of General Services Chip Chesley; Scribe Donna Alexander;
 General Services Business Manager Jeff Hoadley; Deputy City Manager-Finance Brian LeBrun; and
 General Services Solid Waste Manager Adam Clark.

The meeting was called to order at 4:25 PM by Chair Keith Nyhan. With 6 members in attendance it was determined there was a quorum to receive motions.

Item #1: PAYT-Bag Pricing Options

At the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting on January 29th, 2015, the committee voted to proceed with a recommendation that the City Council increase Pay-As-You-Throw bag and container prices by a general 25%. The committee also requested pricing options for implementing that increase.

As directed, General Services’ staff has put the following pricing scenarios together. Option #1 is an across the board 25% increase while Option #2 is a non-tandem increase with the price of the small PAYT-bag increasing at a greater percentage than the large bag. For reference, currently the small PAYT bag is priced at \$1.00 per bag while the large PAYT-bag is priced at \$2.00 per bag. PAYT containers are currently priced at \$3.50 per yard.

	Option #1	Option #2
Small PAYT-bag Price	\$1.25	\$1.45
Large PAYT-bag Price	\$2.50	\$2.25
Containerized Price	\$4.375/yard	\$4.375/yard

The thinking behind the non-tandem increase was that Concord, seeing greater usage of the small PAYT bag, is experiencing instances where the average weight of the small bag is higher relative to its maximum allowable weight (10 lbs.) than the large bag (maximum allowable weight = 20 lbs.).

PAYT Bag Weight Sample Findings					
Total Small Bags	120	Average Weight (in lbs.)	9.13	Percent Overstuffed	37.5%
Total Large Bags	73	Average Weight (in lbs.)	15.87	Percent Overstuffed	27.4%

By pricing the small bag higher than a straight 50% of the large bag, it was thought some of that discrepancy could be accounted for.

Item #2: Recommendation

General Services recommends SWAC and the City Council proceed with Option #1 effective July 1st, 2015 at the start of FY2016. This is based on the fact that the current pricing structure, with the small bag costing 50% of the price of the large bag, is a known entity. Introducing a change into the pricing structure of the bags is going to result in unknown behavior by residents, thereby potentially impacting revenue projections post-increase. With both pricing options yielding revenue estimates within \$4,000 of each other, the uncertainty of a non-tandem increase does not appear to be worth the risk.

Discussion took place to include

- Going to a one-size bag
 - The community needs two sizes
 - Big bag is too big for some
- 4-bags to a pak
- Bag quality - bags are intended to fail at a certain point to discourage overstuffing
- Keith asked what \$1.20 and \$2.40 would do. Round numbers?

Need for a story

- Financial Story speaks for itself
 - Reduction of contracts
 - The costs are not rising because of the products costs
 - The revenue is decreasing and unable to keep the fund solvent
 - The original PAYT program was intended to last 4-5 years and has lasted 6
- How does this help the resident
 - Fund needs to stay solvent
 - Users pay or taxpayers pay (user will have control of own costs) If controlled through taxes then you would be paying for your neighbors mess (no control)
 - Recycle more and control your increase
 - Educate on ways to continue to increase recycling
 - The increase applies to the users – to those who produce the trash
 - Introduce a composting program
 - Cost is an additional \$14 per year – reduce your trash by 1 bag a month and there will be no added costs.

Motion was made for a Vote

Option 2 is risky because there is no way of knowing how peoples habits will change

Option 1 is the only viable option

Option 1 won unanimously

Now there is a need for a marketing plan

- Dust off education from years ago
- Based on what you are throwing today there is still 20-30% more recycling that you can do
- New Video showing a trash bag that has recycling materials being thrown out as trash
- Roll out composting – look at a purchasing program
- Next meeting – will review a marketing plan

Keith thanked everyone for their participation.
Meeting was adjourned at 5:20PM.