

The special called work session of the City Council of the City of Newnan, Georgia was held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 5pm in the Richard A. Bolin Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Keith Brady presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brady called the meeting to order and delivered the invocation.

PRESENT

Mayor Keith Brady: Council members present: Rhodes Shell, George Alexander; Cynthia E. Jenkins (arrived at 6:10pm), Ray DuBose, Paul Guillaume and Dustin Koritko. Also present: City Manager, Cleatus Phillips; City Clerk, Megan Shea; Assistant City Manager, Hasco Craver and City Attorney, Brad Sears

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON SANITATION WASTE PROGRAM

Assistant City Manager, Hasco Craver stated that Abby Goldsmith, Consultant would be going through the survey results and he explained that Staff is looking for direction from Council on 4 items. First is curbside residential garbage and recycling service, does Council want to continue to provide with a contractor or should the City do this? Second, billing for services which is currently handled by GFL.

Ray Norton, Public Works Director, explained the other 2 items to get direction on. He stated that there are a few options with Brush & Bulk service. This is something the City performs but can look at size limits and service frequency to help give better service and cut costs. Also want to look at downtown commercial service, should this stay the same?

Abby Goldsmith stated she would go through each survey question and the findings. The first question was for which services should the City consider hiring a contractor and the majority wanted services to stay as they are with contractor collecting residential garbage and recyclables weekly.

She gave an overview of the costs for the City to get into the business and explained that the biggest challenges right now are hiring drivers and procuring equipment. Total cost for new equipment is \$3,612,545 and annual costs of \$2,477,688. At the current payment rate of 80% customers paying, the rate would be \$28.64 and potentially \$22.94 at 100%. Councilman Koritko asked what customers current rate is and Ms. Goldsmith stated the cost is \$16.71 and Mr. Craver clarified that the percentage rate is 80% with GFL doing the billing. Ms. Goldsmith explained that as a comparison if the City stays as it is now with a contractor and takes billing in house then the cost would be \$8-9 per customer at 90% payment rate. She stated that it is probably less expensive for a contractor to continue to collect for the City.

Mayor Brady commented that at this point going with a contractor seems the best way to proceed. Council agreed with that. Mr. Craver stated that staff will proceed with an RFP

for bids from contractors. Councilman DuBose stated he wants to ensure the quality of customer service is a focus and Mr. Norton said that with billing coming in house that helps give them control over the customer service, knowing it's City Staff handling that.

Ms. Goldsmith moved on to the next survey question, should the City enforce a requirement that all garbage fit in a can? This is already in the City's ordinance but it's not enforced. Majority of Council thought there should be limits. City Manager asked Mr. Norton what percentage of households put garbage outside of their can? Mr. Norton stated a rough estimate would be 15-20%. There was discussion regarding offering a second can for a fee and making exceptions around certain holidays.

Survey question regarding how often recyclables should be collected showed slight majority for weekly as opposed to every other week. Council discussed this and decided that weekly was the best option to go with for the RFP. They then discussed how often yard waste should be collected and the survey showed the majority wanted weekly.

The next survey question was regarding setting limits for yard waste. The majority had stated yes there should be a volume limit. Mr. Craver explained this would require a change to the ordinance as there is nothing in there currently about this. Mr. Norton stated they can work with residences that combine their piles. There was discussion as to numbers with the proposed limit being 3 cubic yards. Council agreed that residents will have different amounts of yard waste at different times of the year.

City Manager stated that limiting yard waste will be the biggest change. Residents will have to pay an additional fee, either monthly or once or twice a year. This is already a city service so it will not be part of the RFP but will be part of the total charged to residents. The current cost for bulk and brush is \$5.81.

The next survey question talked about how often bulk items should be collected. Half of the results wanted weekly. Mayor Brady asked how often are there repeat houses with bulk items and Mr. Norton said all the time. There was a discussion to changing to a call for service on bulk items and perhaps an ala carte menu for bulky items. Mr. Norton estimated 30-40% of houses have bulky items weekly. Ms. Goldsmith stated in the Benchmark Study most communities charge for bulky items and make residents call for service. The most common charge is \$25 per item and call for pickup.

For costs, the majority showed the residents should be charged full costs for sanitation services. The extra services to pay for would be bulky items and garbage not in the can.

There was a discussion regarding the City handling the billing. Council agreed that the property owner should be charged as opposed to the resident. City Attorney concurred as tenets can sometimes move out quickly. As far as a preferred billing mechanism, there was a split on the survey for either utility bill, annual assessment or separate sanitation bill. Council agreed that Newnan Utilities should not be asked to do this. Ms. Goldsmith stated that for the City of Atlanta the tax commissioner sends a separate bill. Councilman Shell asked what happens if an owner won't pay? City Attorney stated they can be cited

and will be easier to go after the property owner as opposed to renters. He also explained that Municipal Court cannot be used to collect monies owed the city.

Mr. Craver stated the last item needing direction is downtown commercial service which was not covered in the survey. Historically \$140,000 is spent on this and \$190,000 is budgeted for this year and the general fund subsidy is about 50%. This isn't just trash collection, it also includes added services of keeping alleyways and sidewalks clean and keeping the downtown looking better. Mayor Brady stated that he thinks the number should be allocated to a more justifiable cost per customer. Mr. John Martin with the Public Works Department stated that about 80% of garbage in downtown comes from the restaurants.

Councilman Koritko asked if raising prices for downtown office 1 and residential would affect the fund? City Manager stated it would be minor and restaurants are going to give the biggest impact. Councilman DuBose said we should remember where we were 10-15 years ago with downtown sanitation. Mayor Brady stated there should be an annual adjustment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Alexander, seconded by Councilman Koritko to adjourn the meeting at 6:13PM

MOTION CARRIED. (7-0)

Megan Shea, City Clerk

Keith Brady, Mayor