



Lowell City Council

Environment & Flood SC

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: May 7, 2019
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber
Lowell City Hall, Lowell, Ma.

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Cirillo, C. Elliott and C. Kennedy. Others present were C. Mercier, C. Conway, C. Nuon, Ralph Snow (DPW), James Troup (DPW), Gunther Wellenstein (Recycling) and C. Leahy.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Cirillo called the meeting to order and noted those in attendance.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Mr. Wellenstein provided handout to the body outlining solid waste and recycling procedures. Mr. Wellenstein noted new contract for trash removal and recycling and how it was a continuance of the old contract. Mr. Wellenstein noted there was a recycling audit by the vendor indicating City was underperforming with recycling and that the better efforts by the City would result in costs savings on the contract. Mr. Wellenstein indicated that the contamination was evident and the City is committed in eliminating that. Mr. Wellenstein outlined tools and methods used to educate and penalize violators of the ordinance. C. Elliott questioned new terms of contract and how it meshed with old contract. Mr. Troup noted that WasteManagement contract expired at end of year and new contract was extended for five years. C. Elliott questioned tonnage and tipping fees and recycling rates. Mr. Troup noted that prior contract had no language for contamination but new contract has and if not addressed it will raise payments to the vendor. C. Kennedy commented on contamination issues and costs of current contract. C. Kennedy noted need to educate public regarding recycling. Mr. Wellenstein outlined different outreach programs regarding recycling.

Mr. Wellenstein discussed fines and violations by the department noting affixed notices, rejecting pick-ups and various degrees of fines. C. Cirillo questioned number of fines collected. C. Elliott noted the importance on collecting the fines otherwise they would be useless and that



they could be attached to tax bills as well. C. Cirillo commented on staffing in the department. Mr. Wellenstein noted the increase over the years but would always accept additional support. C. Kennedy questioned procedure for rejecting bins. C. Elliott question use of overflow bags in the City. Mr. Troup commented on budgeting for overflow bags and can track the use of bags. Mr. Wellenstein noted that various vendors in the area track inventory of overflow bags. C. Elliott questioned use of drop off locations.

Mr. Wellenstein began discussion regarding ordinance changes noting current one does not cover single stream recycling and it should. Mr. Wellenstein commented on possible updates for the ordinance. **Motion** by C. Cirillo, seconded by C. Kennedy to refer matter Law Department to work with Recycling Department to update changes to Ch. 270 Ordinance. Adopted per Roll Call vote 3 yeas. So voted. C. Elliott noted there should be senior discounts regardless of size of bin and that should be addressed in ordinance. C. Kennedy requested costs associated with trash removal and recycling. C. Cirillo noted the substantial delta between revenue and cost regarding trash collection and recycling. Mr. Wellenstein noted fees have not been adjusted for 10 years. Mr. Troup indicated that the delta will increase during course of contract. **Motion** by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Cirillo to request department provide information regarding costs on contract and fees associated with that contract. Adopted per Roll Call vote 3 yeas. So voted. C. Cirillo indicated follow up meeting to review information provided.

RECESS:

Motion to RECESS by C. Cirillo, seconded by C. Elliott. So Voted.

Meeting recessed at 6:27 PM

Michael Geary, City Clerk