

City of Broken Arrow

Minutes Recycling Committee

The Recycling Committee Meeting was held on Monday, March 27, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Main Conference Room.

Present were:

Committee Members: Russell Peterson, E.J. Hardwick, Jim Hoffmeister, Tom Hahn, Dawn Seing, Jill Spurgeon, Michelle Bergwall, Becky Wood, Chris Taylor, Peggy Striegel, Johnnie Parks, Scott Eudey

Resource Team: Russell Gale, Lee Zirk, Graham Brannin, Robert Pickens, Kate Vasquez

I. Call to Order

Russell Peterson, Recycling Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

III. Discussion of Dates and Times for Future Meetings

Russell Peterson discussed the dates and times for the meetings in April. The meeting was scheduled for April 10th. Kate Vasquez was on the line and mentioned she would be in town for another meeting the following day, and April 10th would work for her. She expressed her excitement in being able to meet face to face with everyone. A committee member stated the April 10th meeting would impact scheduled board meetings. Russell Peterson asked the committee members if the April 10th meeting would cause any additional schedule conflicts. The Committee commented that it would not. He reiterated the scheduled meetings in April would be taking place on April 10th and April 24th at the City Hall Main Conference Room at 5:30 p.m.

Russell Peterson entertained a motion that the Recycling Committee Meetings take place on April 10th and April 24th. A motion was given by Peggy Strigel, followed by a second from Chris Taylor. Russell Peterson stated he had a motion and seconded that the dates would be held at April 10th and April 24th at 5:30 p.m. He followed up by taking a vote. All committee members stated "Aye." Russell Peterson stated the vote was closed.

IV. General Discussion & Possible Recommendations

The general discussion was commenced by Russell Peterson. He asked that everyone provide the recommendations in a structured manner. He explained to the Committee he would like to review the pros and cons, politics, and cost for each recommendation, before moving onto the next recommendation. Over the course of future meetings, he stated the Committee would review, and narrow down to two or three possible recommendations.

Russell Peterson explained that he wished to discuss one and two-day garbage pickup prior to the discussion of the recommendations. He stated that if the City initiated a one-day pickup, the fleet of

workers and trucks would be picking up a fourth of the City per work day, in contrast to picking up half, as they do at the current time. He expressed concerns on the number of hours it would take the workers to complete it. Russell Peterson reviewed the positive impacts of one-day pickup which included, being more compact and quicker than the current system. He stated the negative impacts would be that the City would have a higher volume of recyclables and garbage because of a one-day pickup opposed to two day pickups. He stated the workers would have to work harder at each house, which would increase the garbage pickup times for a one-day pickup. A committee member stated he did not understand what Russell Peterson explained. He explained if the City kept the current two-day pickup, the workers could complete the whole City in two days. He followed up with a question to Russell Peterson asking if he was proposing to moving those two days to one-day pickup. Russell Peterson responded stating that the workers would cover a fourth of the city on a Monday by one set of trucks picking up garbage, while another set of trucks would pick up recycling. A committee member posed a question on how the current trucks collect garbage and recycling. Russell Peterson responded that the current trucks only pick up garbage. He reiterated that individuals would put out the recycling and garbage on the same day. A truck would come by and pick up the garbage. A different truck would come by and pick up the recycling. A committee member began recording these ideas on the flipchart. A committee member expressed confusion, and explained that the belief was that garbage pickup would continue to be on Monday and Tuesday followed by recycling pickup on Thursday and Friday. Russell Peterson agreed and said that was another option to consider. That committee member stated that schedule would make more sense. Russell Peterson agreed, but stated what he had explained earlier was also discussed in prior meetings.

A committee member commented that in the prior studies, it is important to maintain the trash and recycling pickup at the same time in order to avoid individuals putting garbage in the recycling pickups. She reiterated that both recycling and garbage pickup should take place on the same day to avoid contamination.

A committee member commented that one option would be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, in quadrants. The City is broken up into four quadrants, and recycling and garbage would both be picked up. Russell Peterson explained that the two different trucks would start on opposite ends and work towards each other in the same quadrant. The fleet of trucks would be split in half, one half for garbage pickup, and the other for recycling, and it would stay that way. The recycling trucks would be painted differently with different logos, and have different equipment compared to the garbage trucks.

A committee member stated that what if the City replaces one of the garbage days with recycling. She commented that it was said before that the best way to not have dirty recycling was to keep them both on the same day pickup. Her proposal was that the City should phase out the bags, and get the individuals used to the carts. The recyclables would use the cart system, and the garbage would be the normal bag system. She commented that half of the truck fleet would need equipment upgrades to support the cart system.

Russell Peterson noted that the second option they discussed was Monday, Tuesday for garbage pickup, and Thursday, Friday for recycling pickup. He reiterated he would like the focus at the moment to reflect on what days the services be provided on, and what the pros and cons and political issues would be. He would like the carts versus bags discussion to be held later in the evening.

Russell Peterson explained Option 1; which included performing the pickup in four different quadrants, with recycling and garbage pickup the same day reducing the contamination. A committee member commented that this option is assuming the City keeps it in house, and does not include a 3rd party. Another committee member agreed, and stated that would be another option. A committee member asked Kate Vasquez of GBB if they could get numbers on the cost for a 3rd party to perform the garbage service, and add recycling to that service. She felt that seeing the costs and comparing those costs to current costs would assist in the decision making. Kate Vasquez responded stating GBB could reach out to surrounding communities; however, those private haulers would not provide Broken Arrow with a cost since so much depends on what the City needs. A bid would need to occur in order to determine pricing. Kate Vasquez commented that there is value in having the City forces perform the garbage and recycling services. She stated that if there was an event that occurred in Broken Arrow, and a lot of debris needed to be picked up, the City forces could do that service and work until it was completed. A private hauler would be less likely to support the City in this type of event, since it is possible they could pick another City over Broken Arrow. A big issue would be that a private hauler would charge the City far more than the cost of overtime to City employees. The cost of a private hauler to run outside of the normal contract would range approximately \$100 - \$150 per hour. Kate Vasquez stated that in the contract with GBB, Broken Arrow has a task in the scope to do an option with one what-if.

Russell Peterson stated that Option 2 was similar to the current system. A garbage truck would stop at all residents twice a week; the only difference was the City would be segregating what was being picked up. He stated there was not much change with this plan, regardless if it was bags or carts.

Russell Peterson stated the pros of Option 1; which would be when the City was broken into quadrants, the trucks would use less gasoline, and less mileage would be put on the trucks, which would result in less maintenance for the trucks. The committee members argued the trucks would still need to cover the same number of miles. Russell Peterson commented that one truck would pick up the garbage route in the quadrant and take it to Covanta, while another truck would pick up recycling and take it to the MRF. Instead of having to cover half the city, the trucks would only have to cover a quarter of it. A committee member stated that with this plan if the City would narrow the pickup down to once a week, it would save money; however, if the City would keep it at twice a week pickup, the cost would remain the same.

Russell Peterson stated that Option 3 would be a private hauler for garbage and recycling pickup. Robert Pickens stated that the City of Tulsa rates were \$15.42 per month, and the service was contracted out. The service there was a one-day a week pickup for garbage and recycling. A committee member commented that Broken Arrow was the only community in the State that provided two-day garbage service, and provided bags for residents. Russell Peterson stated the City paid \$500,000 for the bags, but the City paid for the bags in the fees that were charged to the residents.

Lee Zirk, General Services Director, stated that currently it was one and half trips per truck per day to Covanta. He mentioned somedays it would take two trips, and holidays could add up to three or four trips. He mentioned the City currently had 14 front line trucks running every day. A committee member posed a question if there were plans in the budget to expand the fleet in the next twenty-four months, Mr. Zirk stated that there were not any plans for that at this time. He stated that Broken Arrow had been taking on 30 new accounts every month. A committee member asked if the

replacement costs of trucks were built into the City's bond issues. He responded stating that the costs were built into the operational budget or the capital part of the Broken Arrow Municipal Authority. He also stated that the trucks were on a seven-year replacement cycle. A committee member stated if the City decided to move forward with the quadrant system, there would be a potential for cost savings. It was discussed that the life of the trucks would be extended with that plan.

A committee member mentioned that the cost to add a tipper to the truck would be \$1,000.00 per truck. It was discussed that some individuals of the committee would be upset about the service changing to once per week. He stated that individuals would get upset regardless of what it was because it would be a change. Russell Peterson stated that Option 2 would have the least amount of change, but would still add recycling to the service. The issue with this plan would be that the resident would have to think about what service to put out. A committee member stated that Option 2 could cause the homeowner more stress.

Russell Peterson introduced the topic of carts versus bags. He explained that the carts versus bags issue would be combined with one of the other options. Option A, would include purchasing all new trucks that would be the side loaders with one worker. Carts would be used with those trucks, and bags would be eliminated. He stated that the pros of Option A would be that it would be the most modern system, and that many cities were currently using it. The cons were that it would be the most expensive. A committee member stated that Option A, could reduce workers' compensation costs. Russell Peterson commented that the City would need fewer workers. A committee member asked Kate Vasquez if she had information on what the return on investment would be for the replacement of the entire fleet of trucks. Kate Vasquez commented that the cost benefits would be operational time. One truck could service 1,200 homes or more in one route, so Broken Arrow could service more homes per day. She also commented that because of the increase in service, the City would not need as many trucks. She stated that the City would need fewer drivers because of the decrease in trucks, and there would be no need for laborers to ride on the back of the trucks. Employees would not have to lift, drag, or twist when they put the garbage into the trucks. She also commented that employees would not have to walk around on snow, ice, or in the water. The City would reduce injury and risk. Russell Peterson commented that if the City decided to use new trucks, they would have to transfer over to a cart system, which would include purchasing 68,000 carts. Mr. Zirk asked Kate Vasquez about the automatic features of the new trucks, and how it had worked in communities where the City allowed the residents to put garbage out that did not fit in the cart. Kate Vasquez responded stating that the driver would have to get out and put those items in the truck, which would lose some of the automated value. She mentioned that there was a new truck that could perform both functions; it would have a tipper, and it would have a side or rear arm lift. She stated that the carts ensure the safety function, but that it would require another laborer on the back to move stuff around.

Councilor Eudey asked what the cost was for a new truck. A response was given by Mr. Zirk, stating that the cost for a new truck was around \$180,000.00, not including a tipper. He stated each truck would need two tippers added, which would cost approximately \$1,000.00 per tipper. A committee member asked if the City could retrofit the old trucks, and then purchase the new upgraded trucks for replacements. The committee agreed that would be the best scenario. A negative to this situation would be unhappy residents, since the rates would increase. Kate Vasquez commented that an automated truck cost was about \$250,000.00; however, the City would not need to purchase as many. She stated the City would most likely be able to eliminate one or two trucks from the fleet. A

committee member commented that throughout the phase in process, the City would issue recycling carts, but also continue with the free bags for a few years. Councilor Parks stated that he had worked in Nowata, Oklahoma this week, which was the 93rd largest city in the State at 3,700 people, had two garbage trucks. He stated that one was a new garbage truck that supported the carts. The other truck was a truck like Broken Arrow currently had, and it was retrofitted in the back so it could collect the recycling carts. Both trucks picked up different types of carts.

Russell Peterson stated that Option B, would include retrofitting the existing fleet of trucks. He stated that Option A and B would both be using all carts, and bags would be eliminated. He stated that currently the garbage truck laborers grab the garbage from both sides of the street, so that the truck would only have to drive down the street once. The trucks would be retrofitted with two mechanical arms. The retrofitted truck would include picking up the cart of garbage, and then another retrofitted truck would pick up the recycling later that day. He stated that a pro of Option B, would be that the trucks could still load sticks, grass, and yard waste, and carts. He had a concern in regards to the safety of the tippers and the mechanical features of the new equipment. Kate Vasquez showed the Committee what a cart flipper addition would look like on the existing trucks. Russell Peterson stated another positive aspect of Option B, would be that it would be similar to the existing service in regards to the public perception. All that would need to be purchased would be two flippers per truck and the carts for the residents. A committee member commented that this option would be the least expensive entry point into a cart system. Another committee member stated this option could also be easily phased in.

Russell Peterson explained that Option C, would be an all bag system for garbage and for recycling. Another committee member commented that he would like to amend Option C. He stated that he would prefer this option to have bagged garbage, but to introduce carts for the recycling program. This option would include obtaining the flippers for the trucks. That committee member stated an advantage of going to carts now for recycling would be that it would get the residents used to a cart system and the benefits of it; and then eventually when the City goes to a cart system for the garbage they would be more accepting of it.

A discussion was had about removing the use of garbage bags. There were concerns about the garbage carts becoming very dirty, but Russell Peterson commented that most people would use liners. He stated that using the liners would keep the garbage carts clean. A committee member expressed concerns on how the MRF preferred no bags for recycling. Russell Peterson responded that recycling would not be as dirty as normal garbage would be; and that it would not need to be in a bag in the recycling cart. Russell Peterson stated Option C, could be easily presented to the City Council, and they could explain to them that a test area could be completed first to ensure the program works. A committee member mentioned that in another community in order to get the residents more on board with the program, they put the school mascot on the recycling carts. She stated that by doing that, it really stimulated recycling in that community. A committee member asked how the City would purchase the carts. Russell Peterson stated they would need 34,000 carts times \$60.00 per cart. Councilor Parks stated he felt phasing the carts in for recycling would have a better economic impact on the community, and would have a positive political aspect. A committee member stated the City could use half of the money spent on bags for the carts. She also asked that since there had not been a rate increase in services since 2012, could the City add on a dollar or two to the service to help pay for the carts? After that point, the City would have enough money to purchase the garbage carts as well. Another committee member reiterated that she felt strongly about getting the numbers from a private hauler to see the costs, before the Committee submits a

proposal to the City Council. Russell Peterson agreed that he wanted to show the Council they researched all avenues prior to coming up with a proposal. A committee member suggested that the idea of using a 3rd party for recycling only, should not be thrown out. If a 3rd party performed the recycling services, it would free up time for the garbage truck workers to collect green waste, yard waste, large trash pickups, etc. She stated that this option could be more economical. A question arose about losing City workers because of possibly switching to a 3rd party. A committee member responded stating that Tulsa did not lose one single employee when the City switched to a 3rd party, the employees were all absorbed in other departments. The Committee agreed to move this to Option 3. Option 3A, would be 3rd party for recycling only, and Option 3B, would be 3rd party for recycling and garbage pickup.

A committee member raised a question concerning commercial pickup services. He said that all businesses must find a service for garbage pickup. He stated that in the City of Tulsa, commercial garbage vendors had to purchase a license; and that additional fees were charged to be a vendor in that City, which could be an income source for the Broken Arrow. He stated that the large commercial garbage trucks were hard on streets, created litter, and caused additional costs to the City. He stated that Broken Arrow currently did not charge commercial garbage vendors to service the City. Mr. Zirk responded stating that Broken Arrow had charged those vendors; however, the amount was very small.

A committee member stated that she thought it would be a good idea to give the residents an option of opting out of the cart; however, if residents do not opt out, a cart would be given to them. A discussion was had about apartment complex trash pickup. It was determined that a private hauler collected the garbage at the apartment complex. A discussion was had about the size of the garbage carts, and that the residents could have the option to choose what size they wanted. Peggy Stiegel asked Russell Peterson to put together all the options for review by the Committee.

A committee member raised a question about green and yard waste, and what option those would fall under. Another committee member stated that an ordinance would need to be made for green waste in order for the waste to be taken somewhere to be turned into mulch. She stated that green waste could not go to Covanta.

Russell Peterson stated that he would like to narrow down the one or two-day pickup in order to formulate the options to present to the Committee. A committee member suggested that Option 1 would make the most sense based on what Kate Vasquez had stated. Kate Vasquez had said that the best way to get the community on board would be to have the garbage and recycling pickup done on the same day. It was stated that Option 2 was the only option that kept the garbage and recycling pickups on separate days; which Kate Vasquez suggested was a poor idea based on contamination issues. Lee Zirk stated that if the Committee decided to move it to one-day pickup, the trucks could not skip a day around the holidays. The trucks would have to work the holiday, or they would have to switch the shift to another day. Lee Zirk stated that with this plan the best option would be to have service: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, which would leave Friday open if shifting was needed. Another committee member suggested moving the shifts to Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, since most government holidays were on Mondays.

Russell Peterson entertained a motion for one-day dual pickup of garbage and recycling. Peggy Stiegel motioned. Jim Hoffmeister seconded. Russell Peterson asked if there was any more discussion. He stated it was seconded that the Committee decided on the one-day dual pickup of

garbage and recycling. He asked all those in favor to say. "Aye." All Committee members responded, "Aye."

Russell Peterson stated he would explain the one-day dual pickup as a paragraph with the options listed below. He explained that when the program would be implemented, the City would first start with one area to see the results. He stated he would be hopeful that the residents would like the program, and that they would communicate that to the rest of the community. A committee member suggested using a school district as the pilot for the program. The pilot would be held within those boundaries, and the children would help the parents become involved in the recycling program. The City would have individuals go out and talk to the schools to encourage recycling as well. She stated the kids would be the drivers for the program.

A discussion was held about purchasing the carts and if there was money in the budget to float those costs. A committee member posed a question on how other communities were leasing carts. A response was given that the 3rd party provided the carts, and then added \$1.00 to the bill for the cart lease. A committee member asked Kate Vasquez how the other communities were handling the costs of the carts. Kate Vasquez responded stating that the process was different across the different communities, and that GBB could research that for Broken Arrow. She stated when the service was contracted out the carts were provided by that 3rd party and the resident paid to rent them. Kate Vasquez stated that other cities preferred to own the carts, so the City could keep the carts as an asset. She stated if the City owned the carts, it would make it easier to switch providers if the City decided to. The carts would be replaced by attrition. The City would not have to replace the entire cart fleet at once. Kate Vasquez said that GBB maintained an extensive database of every city or county with more than 100,000 residents, which was 452 communities, and fewer than ten percent had twice a week garbage pickup. She stated it was a declining service level in the U.S. Kate Vasquez explained that was in result of the rise in recycling and single-stream recycling, because residents could decrease the volume at the curb by 25 – 50%. Russell Peterson asked if GBB had information on how cities would finance the purchase of carts. Kate Vasquez stated that cities purchased or leased the carts, both were an option. She stated that carts were purchased by the truckload, opposed to purchasing a dozen at a time to reduce costs. She also stated it was important to keep an inventory of carts so that replacement was easy when carts would become damaged. A community she worked on had a contract with the cart manufacturer, and a repair worker would come out and repair the damaged carts. Kate Vasquez stated there were many ways to do it, as there were financing tools. Peggy Striegel asked Kate Vasquez to email the Committee educational tools on implementing a recycling program. A committee member stated that the MRF had said if the City could get 25% of households to participate in the recycling program it would be a good goal. Kate Vasquez responded that 25% tons over tons would be an excellent achievement. She stated that if a quarter of the current garbage was switched to recycling, it would show a very good performance. A committee member stated that he was on the Leadership of Broken Arrow and they talked specifically about educating the public. He stated that Tulsa had already educated the residents on recycling, and it was a good thing they were a neighbor to learn from, along with the great information GBB had. He also stated that he had access to Tulsa's materials on educating the public.

Russell Peterson discussed how he planned to put the options together and email it out to everyone since Michelle would not be able to be present at the next meeting. He asked that when the email was sent out to please provide comments and express which option was most favorable. Russell Peterson stated that as long as a lot of information does not come in on the 3rd party option, the Committee may be able to make a decision on what option to move forward with. At that point, he

stated he would begin to draft a report. The report would include reasoning as to why the Committee was formed and why recycling was important. He would also discuss on how the Committee educated themselves on recycling, and how much discussion was held on it. Russell Peterson stated he would then lead into the Committee's recommendation and a pilot program. He stated that after he completed the report he would present it to the Committee where everyone would critique it, paragraph by paragraph. Once the Committee would decide the report was complete, it would be presented to the City Council and everyone on the Committee would be present at that meeting if possible. The Committee discussed the possibility of negativity coming from residents that would be present at the meeting. It was noted that often, it was the same people that would be present at those meetings. A discussion was had that the more support that would be shown, the better the outcome would be. A committee member stated that often it was the naysayers that attended the meetings; but there could be an option for residents to log on and make comments over the computer, which could shed a positive light on the situation, if the residents that log on had positive thoughts regarding recycling and the new service. A committee member stated in the past that residents who were in support of something told the City about supporting it after the fact, due to the intimidation of the naysayers. A discussion was had that if residents wanted to opt out, that was a possibility.

Russell Peterson stated that the Committee would meet at 5:30 p.m. two weeks from today. He stated that if committee members could not be present at the meeting to please be sure to email concerns or preferences to the options prior to the meeting. He said that voting would most likely occur at that meeting.

V. Questions from Committee Members

There were no additional questions from committee members.

VI: Adjourn

Russell Peterson entertained a motion to adjourn. Dawn Seing motioned and Becky Wood seconded. Russell Peterson asked for all those in favor to say, "Aye." All committee members responded, "Aye." He stated the vote was closed. The meeting was adjourned.