

Council Agenda Report

Date: February 27, 2017
Prepared by: Oden C. Wheeler Jr., Director, Public Works
Submitted by: Oden C. Wheeler Jr., Director, Public Works
SUBJECT: Recycling and Trash Reduction Strategies.

Recommendation: That Council:

- A. Receive a report on options for reducing trash to control wild animals and to reduce unsightly trash in the streets;
- B. Receive a report on options for providing recycling services to residents that elect to pay for recycling services.
- C. Provide direction to staff.

Discussion:

A: TRASH COLLECTION:

Over the past three months several DPW staff members have participated in this effort; i.e. we held meetings with our sanitation crews to obtain thoughts and suggestions as to what causes the unsightly issues; as a pilot program we removed four City trash cans from Great Marsh Park and relocated them on High St. between Cross and Washington St. where street trash has been prevalent; and we reviewed our Codes to explore what if any enforcement options we have.

Our sanitation crews had valuable input confirming residents that utilize plastic trash bags instead of proper trash containers quite often have broken bags, either from animals, improper or not tying them, items laying lose next to the bags, etc. They suggested several possible measures:

- creating a bulk trash pickup on specific days,
- a call in list, and
- consideration of charging for bulk collection.

Use of Proper Trash Containers:

1. Taking into consideration their comments, and review of our codes pertaining to the proper use of containers with tight fitting lids, DPW has already undertaken a project to be completed over the next 30 to 45 days. Sanitation and administrative staff will compile a list of residents that fail to utilize proper trash receptacles, send the property owner a notice informing them of our ordinance, providing them 30 days to comply. Thereafter we will not collect their refuse until they utilize the proper containers and/or send the owner a fine. The reason for the 30-day notice is because our sanitation staff believe that many of the violators are on rental properties and it may take longer for landlords to provide the containers. Our interpretation of the Code is that if the residence continues with the violation, the property owner is the responsible party and will receive the fine. We fully expect and anticipate that we will receive many of

complaints and negative comments, at first. However, we anticipate that the end result will make for a much cleaner City.

2. In addition, our sanitation staff informed us that some property owners are utilizing oversized containers, i.e. 60 and/or 90 gallon totes, which are extremely heavy. This is in violation of our codes which stipulates that cans are to be no larger than 30 gallon cans. We are going to utilize the same notification process and enforcement as I presented above.

Bulk Trash:

As it pertains to bulk trash, we are reviewing our current practice, and will be sending a recommended plan to Council.

High Street Trash Containers:

In regards to the pilot program by placing street trash cans on High St., the crews have advised us that when they have gone to empty the cans (bi-weekly), they have always been less than half full. However, taking into consideration that foot traffic is less in the winter months, we hope that throughout the month of March will provide us with better survey results. The standard trash containers that we utilize throughout the City cost approx. \$700 each, they are manufactured in Denton so there's no shipping cost.

B. RECYCLING

DPW has done an extensive research consulting with other municipalities, recycling contractors, and Dorchester County. In consideration of this effort we offer the following;

Curbside Recycling: The Town of Easton provides both curbside and container recycling opportunities to its residents and business, they are in their 5th year of the program. They utilize a private contractor for both of these services "Republic Services" with a bi-weekly collection for residents, apartment complexes and business have a weekly collection. The City charges an annual fee depending on whether the property is residential, an apartment complex, and/or business. Their 2016/2017 budget for their recycling program was \$357,247, and they have spent \$303,417 through Jan., so it appears they are going to well exceed their anticipated expense. As of this date I was not able to obtain the revenue generated from the annual collections. However, we were told that the expense is much greater than the revenue generated.

Recycling Contractors: We contacted 9 contractors: 3 do not provide service in our area; 3 only provide roll off service; 2 provide residential service; and 1 that has not returned our calls as of this date.

Residential:

- J. Neal Waste Solutions provides residential service with twice per month pick up for \$10.00 per household. The resident has to provide a container up to 90 gallons, and trash is commingled.
- Republic Services, does not have any individual accounts in our area, so they would need several accounts or something similar to the arrangement they have with Easton, to make it

worth their effort. They are exploring how many accounts they would need as a minimum in order to begin service. They have not provided this information as of this date, however it has only been a couple of days.

- Bates Trucking, has not returned our calls (several). We know they service our area as we see their collection containers in Cambridge, so we will continue this effort.

Centralized Roll Off Containers:

Dorchester County; currently Dorchester County has a roll off container (volunteer) recycling location in the Industrial park off Chesapeake Drive. In the City/County monthly meeting we presented the idea of establishing a second roll off recycling location on City property across from our Streets/Sanitation Division facility on Leonard Lane. The Dorchester Co. Councilmen and County Manager were very receptive to this idea. We discussed the County providing the roll off containers, maintaining them - both in dumping, and maintenance. The City would provide the location, and maintain the site; i.e. surface, removal of non-recyclable materials. The team thought this was an excellent opportunity to expand our recycling effort together, provide a service more convenient to residents in the area, and hopefully encourage a greater volunteer recycling program. In order to prepare the site, DPW would need to build the support surface with milling materials which we have plenty of in storage on our yard, and install culverts. The County would need to order and purchase the containers. If Council is supportive of this effort the next step would be for the City to send a letter to the County Council suggesting the cooperative effort so they could approve and authorize their DPW to move forward.

Fiscal Impact: Funds for replacement trash cans in Long Marsh Park and funds for site preparation for roll-off recycling containers are available in the Public Works budgets. No additional funds are required.

Approved by: 