



City of San Marcos

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

This meeting was held using conferencing software due to COVID-19 rules.

I. Call To Order

With a quorum present, the work session of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Hughson at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The meeting was held online.

II. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Mayor Pro Tem Melissa Derrick, Mayor Jane Hughson, Council Member Maxfield Baker, Council Member Saul Gonzales, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Shane Scott, Council Member Alyssa Garza and Council Member Mark Gleason

PRESENTATIONS

1. Receive a Staff update presentation and hold discussion regarding the City's RFP for garbage services, and provide direction to Staff.

Amy Thomaides, Community Enhancement Initiatives Manager, provided a presentation regarding garbage services. The purpose is to receive input from Council on the Request For Proposals (RFP) criteria for a new garbage contract and to receive input on other programs to increase landfill diversion.

Mrs. Thomaides provided research that was conducted in 2020 and the services provided by our current provider which includes residential curbside, recycling, composting, services to city facilities and services provided to multifamily facilities.

- **January-March 2020: Multifamily Recycling**

- Project with The Recycling Partnership (Multifamily)
- Audited a random selection of complexes with new education, bins and valet
- Complexes with valet service participated more and had less contamination

- **June-August 2020: Residential Recycling**

- Participation: average 70%
- Contamination: average 5.3%

- **August-November 2020: Residential Green Waste**
 - **Participation: average 25%**
 - **Contamination: average – verifying data**

 - **Recycling and Litter Survey**
 - **Closed Jan 15 – results to be distributed soon**
- The survey was issued in English and Spanish.

Mrs. Thomaides presented the recommendations by staff based on changes and needs met during the last few years.

Lynda Williams, Purchasing Manager provided an update on the timeline for the Request for Proposal.

- **Data Collection: January 2020-January 2021**
- **Create RFP: 30-60 days**
- **Issue RFP/Out for Public Interest: 30-45 days**
- **Receive Proposals/Evaluate Bids: 30-45 days**
- **Interview Short List: 2 weeks**
- **Negotiate with Finalist: 30-60 days (obtain clarification/understanding, contract terms, project schedules)**
- **Council Award: 30 days**
- **Implementation if TDS is not awarded: 30-60 days (Order Carts, distribute carts, remove carts)**
- **Operational: Anticipate early October 2021**

Mrs. Thomaides mentioned that it will take 3-4 months to order carts, have them distributed and remove carts and it takes about 4-6 weeks to fully distribute new carts.

Council Member Garza noted that she reviewed the previous meetings prior to coming on Council and she would like to know what the problems were with Texas Disposal Systems other than the concern that this contract has not been bid out in awhile. Mrs. Thomaides stated there are no problems and the only concern is the length of time since the last contract has been bid out.

Council Member Baker understands the concerns regarding small businesses, and asked if we should require that commercial providers over a certain size to have recycling. Mrs. Thomaides said the Universal Recycling Ordinance would address this instead of just targeting a commercial business over a certain size. This would be more equitable and would address the entire community.

Council Member Baker expressed his concern with the affect this will have on small businesses.

Mayor Hughson asked if the universal ordinance would require the business to contract for recycling/compost or would they have to contract with the City. Mrs. Thomaides said the universal recycling ordinance would require the business to contract that service with the provider of their choice.

Mayor Hughson asked if we know how many businesses are recycling. Mrs. Thomaides said this is information that can be gathered, but this information is not known at this time.

Mayor Pro Tem Derrick would like to see that costs regarding the implementation of the universal recycling ordinance.

Council Member Gleason would like to see how many are participating in recycling and the cost before we discuss implementing a universal recycling ordinance. An audit would be helpful.

Council Member Baker would like to know what to do about dirty dumpsters and the areas around these dumpsters. He would like to see who is responsible for the litter around the dumpsters and would like this included in the RFP. Mayor Hughson inquired as to the current enforcement procedures and noted that it can be difficult to determine if the business is responsible for the litter. Mr. Stapp stated Staff will have to look into this further and report back.

Mrs. Thomaides stated staff does not recommend placing recycling in the contract because businesses can likely negotiate a better rate dependent on their needs.

Council discussed the following items and provided consensus on what to include in the Garbage Services RFP:

City Council agreed with all recommendations for Residential Services (Curbside)

- Add 35-gallon trash cart option - Yes**
- Keep every other week recycle service – Yes**
- Add an additional box for 4 cardboard boxes of recyclables – Yes**
- Keep every other week green waste service - Yes**
- Keep up to 12 paper yards bags of green waste - Yes**
- Keep 4-3 cubic yards bulk pickup - Yes**

- Increase to 40-40 yard roll offs for Community Cleanups - Yes

City Council agreed with all recommendations for City Facilities

- Add compost to city facilities - Yes
- Add compost to athletic fields - Yes

City Council agreed with all recommendations for Multifamily Complexes

- Keep recycling
- Add valet recycle service
- Add targeted compost, as a pilot program to see if this works, if it works it could cause an increase in multifamily rate – Council provided direction to proceed with a pilot program to review this further
- Add Trash (staff does not recommend) – Council accepts staff recommendation to NOT add trash to multifamily and allow apartments to contract themselves.

Commercial

- Add Single Provider (staff does not recommend) – Leave as is and do not require a single provider
- Research Universal Recycling Ordinance – Yes, including possible options by type of business and size of business.

Special Uses

- Keep roll offs at 40 acres - Yes
- Keep special events - Yes

Environmental

- Add into evaluation: distance from San Marcos to facility - Yes
- Research other sustainable practices – Yes

Council Member Baker expressed his concern that the city is being led towards a contract with Texas Disposal Systems (TDS). Mr. Lumbreras stated this was not written for TDS and if sustainability is an important factor then it needs to be considered. This was meant to focus on environmental concerns more than anything.

Council Member Gleason stated the distance of a trash facility to San Marcos can have an impact on the region with increased traffic.

Council Member Gonzales asked how many landfills are there within a 35-mile radius? Mrs. Thomaidis listed several within that range.

Mr. Lumbreras stated this will build the framework and it will be brought before Council to finalize the RFP.

Mayor Hughson thanked Mrs. Thomaides and staff on the work they have completed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Executive Session in accordance with Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with Attorney - to receive advice of legal counsel regarding the process for consideration of out of city utility extension requests under Section 86.003 of the San Marcos City Code and state law restrictions on municipal regulation of land uses on development projects initiated prior to annexation.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Derrick, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Scott, to enter into Executive Session at 4:16 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Mayor Pro Tem Derrick, Mayor Hughson, Council Member Baker, Council Member Gonzales, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Scott, Council Member Garza and Council Member Gleason

Against: 0

III. Adjournment.

Executive Session was concluded at 5:36 p.m.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Scott, seconded by Council Member Baker, to adjourn the work session meeting of the City Council at 5:38 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 4 - Mayor Hughson, Council Member Baker, Council Member Gonzales and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Scott

Against: 0

Absent: 3 - Mayor Pro Tem Derrick, Council Member Garza and Council Member Gleason

Tammy K. Cook, Interim City Clerk

Jane Hughson, Mayor