



City of West Allis

7525 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214

Meeting Minutes Public Works Committee

Aldersperson Richard F. Narlock, Chair
Aldersperson Lester Trudell, Jr., Vice-Chair
Alderspersons: James W. Sengstock, Vincent Vitale, and Martin J. Weigel

Monday, January 5, 2004

6:30 PM

West Allis City Hall Room 210

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Narlock called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Ald. Narlock, Ald. Trudell, Ald. Sengstock and Ald. Vitale

Excused: 1 - Ald. Weigel

Also present: Mike Pertmer, Director of Public Works; Mike Lewis, City Engineer; Gary Kirchner, Superintendent of Sanitation and Streets Division; Brenda Schmid, Secretary.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 12, 2003 and the recess meeting minutes of July 1, August 5, September 2 and 16, October 7 and 21, November 4 and 18, and December 2 and 16, 2003 The motion carried.

D. NEW AND PREVIOUS MATTERS

[R-2003-0143](#)

Resolution Relative to Implementing a City-Wide Curbside/Alleyside Refuse Collection Program in 2004.

Mike Pertmer, Director of Public Works, opened discussion by saying this resolution was introduced in May of 2003 during preparation of the 2004 budget. Of the 8.5 positions that were removed from the Public Works Department budget, 7.5 of the employees were from the Sanitation and Streets Division. Of those 7.5 positions, 7 were from refuse.

Currently there are 7-3 person crews (1 driver and 2 laborers) collecting refuse and 2-2 person crews (2 drivers) collecting recycling. Mr. Pertmer pointed out that West Allis is the only community he knows of to have a three person refuse crew-most municipalities have 1 or 2 person crews.

While 50% of the homes are able to receive backyard collection, a majority put their refuse at the curb for collection. Among the reasons so many people place their refuse at the curb are: 1) There is a high turnover of housing in West Allis and new residents had to place their refuse at the curb at their previous residences. 2) Neighbors are placing refuse at the curb so they feel they should do it also. 3) Residents have been placing recyclables at the curb for almost 10 years.

One benefit from having curbside refuse collection include an estimated savings of \$350,000 annually as a result of decreased labor costs and increased productivity. These savings will be distributed to all property tax payers, including those who do not receive refuse collection. A second benefit is improved quality of collection. It will be nearly impossible to miss properly contained and located refuse because crews won't have to worry about cars or snow blocking access, locked gates or loose dogs.

A disadvantage to curbside refuse collection is a lower level of service for some residents. While a majority of residents place their refuse at the curb, those who currently continue to

locate it in their backyard will have to place it at the curb. Unsightliness will increase on the day of collection since there will be more containers on the street before and after collection.

Mr. Pertmer said the public has been informed about curbside collection by receiving information at the Mayor's budget hearings, by articles in various newspapers during the budget process and by information on cable TV. There was a front page article regarding curbside collection in the first quarter city newsletter and the second quarter newsletter will have follow-up articles. In addition, an information packet will be delivered to all residential properties starting in mid-April.

Gary Kirchner, Sanitation and Streets Superintendent, explained the following information in the sample packet that will be distributed to residents in mid-April: 1) an introductory letter, 2) "How to Recycle" that explains the City's recycling system, 3) a sheet with each residents' refuse collection day and the recycling collection day and whether they are the black week or the red week, 4) a calendar showing the brush and recycling schedule for 2004, 5) a pamphlet focusing on guidelines for locating refuse and recyclable at the curb and alley edge, and 6) a schedule for 2004 for the MMSD Household Hazardous Waste mobile sites.

Mr. Pertmer pointed out that, although they tried to minimize it, there will be a small number of residents who will have their refuse and recycling picked up on separate days.

Mr. Kirchner stated that, at this time, there are 100 carts left of the 90 gallon carts the City currently sells for \$69.25. Once this inventory is depleted the City will not have them available anymore. There was discussion about the 96, 65 and 36 gallon carts that will be sold for \$40.00 to \$48.00 after the 90 gallon carts are gone. The City will have to put the wheels on the new carts and deliver them. The new carts have a ten year unconditional guarantee while the 90 gallon carts only had a one year guarantee. Calls are already coming in for the new carts but there is an estimated eight week delivery time.

Under the new guidelines, only carts offered for sale by the City should be used. Garbage cans must be metal, 20-32 gallons in size and have a tight fitting cover. Plastic bags may be put out on the day of collection but they must be sealed shut, have a 35 pound weight limit and be strong enough to prevent tearing when lifted.

Mr. Pertmer explained the backyard collection alternatives that will be made available to residents. The alternatives involve: 1) non-handicapped households which will be charged a fee to have their refuse removed from a location on the property besides curbside, 2) handicapped households, with a physician's certificate that all members in the household are handicapped, that meet financial hardship guidelines will receive no charge, and 3) handicapped households, with a physician's certificate that all members in the household are handicapped, that do not meet financial hardship guidelines will pay a fee equal to one-half that paid by non-handicap. The full fee will be approximately \$85.00 per year.

Mr. Pertmer stated the changes to the current ordinances will be minimal. Carts cannot be placed out prior to 6:00 p.m. the day before collection and will have to be placed back on the resident's property by 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Pertmer went through the following changes in the City's bulk refuse collection which has not been revised since July of 2002: 1) in the brush section, the amount charged for large quantities of brush will change from \$35.00 per 10 cubic yards to \$58.00, 2) in the brush section, "city-wide" will be put in capital letters and bolded to emphasize storm damage in the whole city not just from one or two properties, 3) a new paragraph has been added under residential household debris that includes a charge to remove large heavy pieces of furniture that require mechanical collection, 4) large appliances under the information regarding household items not collected by the City was rephrased, 5) a fee schedule has been added for

the disposal of owner generated demolition material, 6) the fees for special collection of owner generated demolition material were increased, with the fee for roofing shingles being doubled, and 7) for quantities of one cubic yard or less of concrete, ground and asphalt there is now a charge of \$3.00.

Discussed

The following roll call was taken to reflect Alderman Weigel was present, as noted, in the discussion above.

Present: 5 - Ald. Narlock, Ald. Trudell, Ald. Sengstock, Ald. Vitale and Ald. Weigel

Excused: 0

2003-0400

West Allis Auto Club Building Fund Committee Personal Guarantee.

Mr. Pertmer stated this item was previously discussed by both the Board of Public Works and the Administration and Finance Committee. On October 27, 2003 the Administration and Finance Committee recommended for adoption and on November 4, 2003 the Council adopted a resolution approving a guaranty to Wells Fargo Bank.

Discussed and Consensus Given

E. OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

2004-0014

Exterior Property Maintenance-Old Incinerator Building.

Mike Pertmer, Director of Public Works, stated this is in reference to an order requiring a number of repairs to be made to the City of West Allis transfer station at 5032 West Rogers Street issued by the Building and Zoning Department as part of their Exterior Property Maintenance Program. He noted the location of the transfer station is on a dead end street next to a junk yard for old cars and there are no residential properties within blocks of the building.

In a memo to Ted Atkinson, Director of the Building and Zoning Department, Mr. Pertmer requested a six month delay to remedy the violations so a plan and budget can be prepared. There was discussion about the use of \$100,000 of economic development funds to demolish part of the building and stack and construct a new west wall. The partial demolition would allow Onyx, who has 4 years left on their contract with a 5 year extension, to continue using the building as a transfer station for the hauling of City refuse. Mr. Pertmer also noted that he doubted that the station could ever be sighted in any other location in the City.

Mr. Pertmer said he would keep the Board informed of any new information regarding this situation.

Discussed

F. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion carried.