

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 19, 2012

The regular scheduled meeting of the City Council, City of Audubon Park, was held on Monday, November 19, 2012, at 3340 Robin Road with the following present: Mayor Michael Scalise along with Council Members Cindy Habeeb, Rose Mangino, Gary Vogel, Al Huber, Judy Schwenker, and Patrick Kehoe. Also present were Police Chief Jeffrey Cox and City Clerk Stephanie Lee along with City Attorney Patrick McElhone. Assistant City Attorney Jonathan Leachman was absent from the meeting.

Call to Order: Mayor Scalise called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes: Mayor Scalise asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes from the previous month. Gary Vogel made motion to accept the minutes as presented. Al Huber seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: The following is a list of people who spoke and a general summary of what they had to say:

Mayor Scalise thanked everyone that ran for Council this time; and he asked the newly elected members present (Joanne Bader, Vince Osbourn, Nancy Zinner, and Al Huber) to please stand for acknowledgment as the audience applauded. He continued on by briefly explaining and answering questions pertaining to the bidding process for garbage service.

1. Joanne Bader, 1117 Cardinal - asked if it is the normal time period to do the bidding process now, and she commented about the possible need for a survey to see what is or is not wanted by the residents (as she said was previously mentioned by Vince Osbourn). She also inquired as to the contract time period as well.

Mayor Scalise mentioned the need to do the bidding now to obtain rates for the upcoming tax bills, and he commented about a new contract with a period covering approximately three years.

2. Gene Stotz, 3330 Robin Road – invited everyone to the Audubon Park Garden Club Community Christmas Celebration Open House scheduled for Sunday, December 9th, from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. He mentioned they will have door prizes and cash awards, and he asked that residents light up their homes for the season. He said he hopes everyone gets a chance to participate.
3. Judith Basham, 3101 Chickadee – commented about keeping the current garbage service. She said she thinks the City is blessed with the nice, helpful service that is received. She also mentioned Tim McNally with Waste Management taking care of any concerns she has had in the past.

4. Vince Osbourn, 3114 Chickadee – asked for clarification on the City having three bids for the garbage service, as to if the contract will begin July 1st, and about the Council evaluating it.

Mayor Scalise said the current contract expires June 30, 2013; but he said the tax bill reading takes place in January and February with the rate being on the bills.

5. Laura Kelty, 3242 Cross Bill – inquired as to whom the three companies were that submitted the bids. She also commented about the garbage term and about having a survey to evaluate the service.

Mayor Scalise said the three companies are Eco-tech, Waste Management, and Rumpke. He added that the City has met the bid requirement laws within the bidding process.

Patrick Kehoe questioned as to if the City is having a Council Meeting in December, and Mayor Scalise said there is always a meeting in December.

6. Dorn Crawford, 932 Audubon Parkway – inquired as to what specs were bid.

Mayor Scalise said the City requested the current service of twice per week regular household garbage collection, back door service, plus one day per week yard waste and recycling versus one time per week collection of all.

7. Joanne Bader, 1117 Cardinal – questioned about other companies having the same procedure when it comes to junk item pickups. She also inquired about large amounts of garbage from cleanouts saying she thinks it should be clarified.

Mayor Scalise said the contracts say one appliance or large item per week. He also said there is a lot of yard waste to collect at certain times of the year. He said when it comes to construction debris, etc., he doesn't think they will take that; but he says some items are not specified.

8. Karen Hardy, 1104 Audubon Parkway – asked if all of the bids included back door pickup.

Mayor Scalise answered yes to Ms. Hardy's question.

9. John Wientjes, 3100 Teal – commented about calling the people being referred to as garbage men, and he said he prefers to call them "sanitation engineers". He said he is satisfied with the way things are going right now, and he said he would like to keep the service the same way.

Rose Mangino questioned as to if the garbage bids included recycle bins with wheels. She also mentioned bringing up the idea previously saying that she thought more people would do the recycling if they had bins with wheels to take it out to the curb.

Mayor Scalise said one company had included recycling every other week with a bin on wheels, but he said it was not requested in the bids.

10. Pete Becker, 3105 Chickadee – said he thought the City should keep the back door pickup.

Rose Mangino said she is not saying we should not have back door pickup; she said she is saying she thinks residents need wheels on their recycle bins. She said she thinks people are not recycling like they should because they have to carry it out to the curb, and she said the bins are too heavy without wheels.

11. Vince Osbourn, 3114 Chickadee – inquired about the length of the contracts.

Mayor Scalise said it just depends on what we want; and he said one is for 36 months, one is for 2 years, and one doesn't specify.

Patrick Kehoe questioned as to if there are any early exit fees involved in the contracts.

Mayor Scalise said no, and he added we haven't withdrawn from any contracts.

Patrick McElhone said typically you have terms and conditions in contracts (personnel problems, etc.); and he commented anyone can sue anyone.

12. Sue May, 1107 Audubon Parkway – mentioned the back door pickup being appreciated due to her age, and she said she uses a wagon to take her recycle items to the street.

13. Jean Humphrey, 3120 Chickadee – commented about the cost involved in once per week collection versus twice per week. She also asked if the reduction in price would be passed on to the homeowners.

Mayor Scalise said the sanitation amount on the tax bill will be reduced.

Financial Report: The information submitted on the Financial Report showed the figures through the month of October. Mayor Scalise commented about the Financial Report being for informational purposes only with the upcoming Audit; therefore, a vote was not taken at this time.

Police Report: Chief Cox read the Police Report for the month of October. A copy of the said report is made a part of these minutes.

Chief Cox mentioned the Halloween detail with McGruff, and he said everything went well with a good crowd. He said the City plans on continuing with projects like this, and he thanked the City employees that donated time or money to the project. He said "Happy Thanksgiving" to everyone.

Mayor Scalise thanked Chief Cox for suggesting the detail saying it was a good idea.

Forest Board Business: Gilbert Zinner passed out the Forest Board Report dated November 19, 2012 as well as the Audubon Park Tree Committee Report dated November 14, 2012 to the Mayor and Council for their review.

Anne Bobigian reported to the Council regarding easement tree plantings, species threats, Garden Club funding, donations, memorials (Ethelyn Maxwell), tree costs listed within the “Summary of Audubon Park Tree Committee Total Cost (Fall 2011 – Fall 2012)”, loss of trees on Robin Road, LG&E grants, matching funds needed, proactive plans and future costs (Emerald Ash Borer), other possible grants, and up front funding needed for projects in order to obtain reimbursement later, etc.

Mayor Scalise thanked Anne Bobigian for her report and information.

Rose Mangino inquired about the line in the Budget for the Garden Club, and Mayor Scalise said there was grant money put in the Budget for the Garden Club for next year.

Unfinished Business: There was not any “Unfinished Business” to report at this time.

New Business: Mayor Scalise mentioned the Code Enforcement Board, and he requested approval of Pete Becker as an alternate for the Board.

Al Huber made motion to approve Mr. Becker as an alternate for the Code Enforcement Board, and Gary Vogel seconded. The motion passed with Rose Mangino voting against it.

Mayor Scalise passed out spreadsheets containing information pertaining to the three bids that were submitted for garbage service.

Michael Sweeten with Rumpke spoke briefly on behalf of his company regarding providing the same type of service the City has now, a spreadsheet comparison he had completed, being lower than Waste Management’s bid, and providing recycle carts, etc.

Tim McNally with Waste Management spoke briefly on behalf of his company regarding servicing Audubon for 15 years now, extraordinary service provided, having an Iraq Veteran on staff, using compressed natural gas, looking out for residents, not being the lowest bid this time, and thanking the citizens for their support, etc.

Mayor Scalise went into an explanation of the bid information submitted on the spreadsheet copies he had passed out. He also mentioned having the original bids on hand for review if anyone was interested.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the bids submitted, the actual opening of the bids that had taken place earlier in the day, Council approval versus first readings of Ordinances, bid specs (as traditionally done in the past), Council member responsibilities, the service provided now, one day per week service versus twice per week, back door pickup versus curbside pickup, disasters and storm debris, employment of garbage

service employees (background checks, employee pay, training, etc.), keeping the same employees on our route, keeping the same exact service, past surveys, rumors of problems coming up with garbage service employees in the past, and security systems in homes, etc.

Rose Mangino called for the vote, and Al Huber said it is the call for the question.

Gary Vogel made motion to continue with using Waste Management with their bid (less than what is currently being paid), and Al Huber seconded.

Patrick Kehoe commented about the new Council that will be coming in; and he said there is a considerable difference (\$28,000) that can go to a lot of things (roads or a tree fund, etc.).

After another brief explanation of the bids submitted, Mayor Scalise called for the vote; and the motion passed with Patrick Kehoe voting against and Rose Mangino abstaining.

Rose Mangino mentioned talking to Mr. Zinner regarding an article she had seen in the paper, and she explained it was about the Kentucky Conservation Committee trying to improve outdoor environmental education. She said she asked Mr. Zinner if the Forest Board can look at the two schools in the area (Audubon Traditional and Camp Taylor) to present a program pertaining to the need for trees.

Mr. Zinner said he will bring up the idea at their next meeting, and Mayor Scalise agreed saying they will look at it.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Scalise mentioned the new "Welcome to Audubon Park" signs at the entrances along with some new stop signs. He also commented about the TARC bus signs being removed with the route in the area being discontinued. He added that LG&E has taken down some trees in the area due to possible problems with lines during future storms; and he mentioned the locations were on Chickadee, Valley, Linnet, and Henderson Park. He said there is wood in Henderson Park on the ground from the tree that was cut down at that location, and he said anyone is welcome to the wood.

Rose Mangino said she thinks they need to look at repairs to the streets, and she added that she was talking about repairs contractors had just made.

Mayor Scalise said he has obtained bids for the streets, and he went on to say the contractors are not finished in the area.

Al Huber made motion to adjourn the meeting. Judy Schwenker seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

ATTESTED

APPROVED