

Minutes of the work session of the Hobbs City Commission held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chamber at City Hall, 200 East Broadway, Hobbs, New Mexico.

Mayor Cobb called the work session to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. The following were present:

Mayor Sam D. Cobb
Commissioner Marshall Newman
Commissioner Jonathan Sena
Commissioner Crystal Mullins
Commissioner Joseph D. Calderón
Commissioner Garry A. Buie

Absent: Commissioner John W. Boyd

Also present were Mr. J. J. Murphy, City Manager, Mr. Mike Stone, City Attorney, Ms. Jan Fletcher, City Clerk and Ms. Mollie Maldonado, Deputy Clerk. Other staff members and public were also present.

Recycling Discussion - Presentation of Report and Evaluation of the City's Waste and Recycling Programs. Mr. Tim Woomer, Utilities Director, stated the City has discussed recycling programs on numerous occasions. He stated the goal of waste and recycling programs is to reduce cost, waste and create a recycling program. He stated the City would include Waste Management in the process as a partner in recycling. Mr. Woomer recognized several members of the Committee for Hobbs who were present in the audience. He then introduced Mr. Angelo Medico, a recycling consultant hired by the City of Hobbs to evaluate the benefits of a recycling program in the community.

Mr. Medico stated he is knowledgeable and experienced in the subject of recycling. He expressed appreciation to the City for the opportunity to be of service and to present his preliminary findings. He stated the Committee for Hobbs is the grass roots effort behind creation of a recycling program. Mr. Medico stated a community of Hobbs' size should have a recycling program in place.

Mr. Medico stated Waste Management already has unique recycling programs that would be beneficial to Hobbs, and he feels confident that curbside recycling is feasible in Hobbs. He stated residents would first need to change the culture of what is placed into the trash bin. Mr. Medico stated once curbside recycling is implemented, the volume of collection is shifted to recycling which reduces the amount of trash for the landfill. He stated the main cost components for consideration are the costs of trucking and the costs of disposal. The cost would be determined by the type of service provided and the frequency. He stated there would be cost savings to the City and residents if a 64-gallon sized bin is used, after recycling, opposed to the 96-gallon bin which is currently being used. Mr. Medico

stated that savings would be seen by reducing trash pick-up from twice per week to once per week.

In reply to Commissioner Sena's inquiry, Mr. Medico stated he construes the term "curbside service" as meaning all trash service at the residence, whether it occurs in the alley or at the curb, wherever it is that the bins are picked up by Waste Management. He stated the cost schedule would be different and there is better efficiency and less cost if it is done at the front of the house rather than in the alley.

In response to Commissioner Sena's inquiry, Mr. Curtis Harris with Waste Management stated Rio Rancho is currently participating in a recycling program provided by Waste Management and 85% of the residents are participating in the program.

In further answer to Commissioner Sena's question, Mr. Medico stated participation in the recycling program is voluntary. He stated residents voluntarily participate in recycling by separating their trash into the recycle bins.

In reply to Commissioner Newman's inquiry, Mr. Medico stated Waste Management does an excellent job in educating the public regarding recycling. He stated they already have established marketing programs and conduct public service announcements in partnership with the communities.

Mr. J. J. Murphy, City Manager, stated Waste Management would need a complete, multi-faceted campaign in Hobbs in many different mediums to educate the public on recycling. He stated a year from now, recycling will be second nature, and children will learn the social responsibility of recycling.

Mr. Medico used a comparison that first learning to recycle is like first learning to wear a seatbelt. Wearing a seatbelt is now a daily habit which is done automatically when you get into a car. He stated it will be important to first change the mentality of citizens to promote recycling. Mr. Medico stated Waste Management has a great promotions department with pre-packaged promotional tools to educate the community about recycling.

Commissioner Buie stated he is in favor of recycling but is concerned about the cost with Waste Management.

Commissioner Calderón stated the Hobbs Municipal Schools can assist by involving parents and children in recycling. Mr. Medico stated he has seen schools form Environmental Clubs to help teach students the differences between waste and recycling.

Commissioner Mullins stated she supports recycling. She questioned whether there would be recycle bins available to the public at various points in the community. Mr. Medico stated bins can be available throughout the community but he recommended first starting with residential recycling.

In reply to Commissioner Mullins' inquiry, Mr. Medico stated the incentive for residents to participate in recycling is that they will save money by not having that much trash being thrown in the trash bins and can downsize trash bins - "pay as you throw".

In response to Mayor Cobb's question, Mr. Medico stated the fees at the landfill are all inclusive with Waste Management.

In further answer to Mayor Cobb's inquiry, Mr. Woomer stated the biggest cost paid to Waste Management is trucking fees. He stated the City will experience savings by reducing the volume of trash and reducing the frequency of pick-ups.

In reply to Mayor Cobb's question, Mr. Woomer stated there are State grants for which the City can apply to incorporate a recycle-processing facility in Hobbs. Mr. Murphy stated Hobbs could be the hub to surrounding areas for recycling needs such as a processing facility.

Mayor Cobb stated if the recycle-processing facility was operated by a private firm, it would be a win-win for all. Mr. Medico stated that a processing facility would have to be subsidized as it is not usually a profitable business.

Ms. Bonnie Moran, member of the Committee for Hobbs, stated the Committee is very much in support of recycling.

Ms. Marcia Schubert, also a member of the Committee for Hobbs, stated the Committee is willing to assist in promoting and educating the community on the importance of recycling.

Ms. Cindy Huffman, member of the Committee for Hobbs, thanked everyone for considering recycling.

Mr. Woomer stated he will meet with representatives of Waste Management to solutions on recycling.

Budgetary Adjustments for FY 14-15. Mr. Toby Spears, Finance Director, reviewed the FY 15 mid-year adjustments and stated the general fund budgeted cash reserves have increased from 39% to 47% which is \$33,083,428.00 to