



Approved 7/25/19

**City of Cleveland Heights
Refuse & Recycling Task Force**

**7/11/19 Meeting Minutes
Cleveland Heights City Hall – Council Chambers – 6:00 p.m.**

Ms. Contance Johnson greeted the group, and asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes.

Mr. Jordan Davis said that he had not had a chance to review the minutes.

Ms. Johnson suggested that the group should hold reviewing and accepting the minutes until everyone has had a chance to review them.

[Unknown/Unclear] made a motion to hold accepting the minutes.

Mr. Davis seconded the motion.

Ms. Johnson asked if anyone opposed, and there were no responses from the task force.

Ms. Johnson read the purpose statement of the task force.

Mr. Davis pointed out that there was a typo in the purpose statement.

Ms. Cathi Lehn pointed out that the last sentence is a fragment.

Mr. Davis pointed out that the last sentence is missing.

Mr. Joe Kickel gave a brief presentation of the current operating costs of the Refuse & Recycling Division, the revenues generated by the landfill fees, and the cost of converting the operation to automated collection.

Ms. Susan Efroymsen asked a question about the cost of automation.

Mr. Kickel introduced Ms. Tanisha Briley

Ms. Efroymsen asked for some clarification with regards to the trash carts for automation.

Ms. Tanisha Briley greeted the task force, and introduced herself.

Ms. Briley talked about the different funds the city has, some of the restrictions, and how the Refuse & Recycling Division is funded through the General Fund.

Ms. Briley talked about how the majority of the city's revenue comes from income tax, and how the city receives approximately eleven cents from every dollar from property taxes.

Ms. Briley provided the task force with a handout with a five year general fund forecast.

Ms. Briley talked about non-recurring revenues, and how the city does not budget for those.

Ms. Briley talked about having a budget reserve.

Ms. Briley talked about the city's revenues, and how they have remained relatively flat, and expenses continue to increase.

Ms. Briley talked about the budget reserve and how it will start to diminish through 2024, and how the general rule of thumb is to maintain two months of budget reserve.

Ms. Briley provided the task force with a comparative handout of other local communities and their budget reserves.

Ms. Briley talked about the health of the city's credit rating, how it is currently good, and how it is directly affected by the level of budget reserve, as well as population, and demographics.

Ms. Briley talked about debt service, and how the city has no ability to service new debt.

Ms. Briley talked about how certain funds like sewer and forestry are self-supporting funds that generate revenue and cover the costs of their operations including capital.

Ms. Briley talked about the general fund and how there is a need for new vehicles and equipment, and how the city can borrow money, but has no additional source of revenue to pay it back.

Ms. Briley talked to the group about the need for a dedicated revenue source for equipment.

Ms. Efroymsen asked for clarification.

Ms. Briley said that cities can either charge fees or increase taxes to generate additional revenues, and the need to create a source of revenue to support capital.

Ms. Efroymsen asked for clarification about if the task force were to recommend automation, the amount needed would be \$4.3 Million and not any additional money for current operating costs.

Ms. Efroymsen asked about if the city switched to automation and reduced its workers compensation claim costs, would that reduce the \$4.3 Million dollar figure.

Ms. Briley commented that she believed that workers compensation reductions are unpredictable, and that it would not be a good idea to budget based on any potential reductions and/or savings.

Ms. Efroymsen asked about how Lakewood talked about phasing in their operation.

Ms. Collette Clinkscale said that she believed that it would be a decision that the task force could recommend.

Ms. Carin Miller brought up the condition of the current equipment and whether or not it would be feasible to phase in automation.

Mr. Torres said that he did believe that you can phase in trash, and with some of the equipment, the city could buy a few extra years of service.

Mr. Kickel said that ideally you would want to do it all at once.

Ms. Clinkscale said that sometimes it can be just as expensive to try and maintain equipment that is already long past its estimated useful life.

Mr. Davis talked about phasing, and how that could be a challenge with recycling and elimination of blue bags in the recycling stream.

Ms. Johnson summarized Ms. Briley's presentation and the decision that the task force has to make.

Ms. Efroymsen asked about the current fee, and how much it would need to increase to cover the cost of automation.

Ms. Briley clarified that it would not need to be an upfront cash purchase as long as there is a dedicated source of revenue to cover the expense.

Ms. Lehn brought up the option of getting grants for the carts.

Ms. Clinkscale brought up that the city did look into grants for the carts, and the last time they looked into it, it was about \$7.00 per cart.

Ms. Lehn asked how much the carts cost.

Ms. Clinkscale said about \$55

Ms. Johnson asked if Ms. Briley would be willing to come back to talk to the task force again.

Ms. Briley said absolutely, and that she would be giving a budget presentation to City Council on July 29th and invited the members to attend.

Ms. Miller asked if the city would want to have any recommendation by the task force on the 2020 budget, and if a fee would be better than a tax.

Ms. Briley said yes, ideally, and talked about fees versus taxes, and how a fee model would probably work better than a tax model.

Mr. Davis asked if any communities utilize a pay as you throw policy.

Ms. Briley was not aware of any communities locally, but did talk about how her previous job in Davenport, Iowa who rolled out a pay as you throw policy, and about 25% of the residents underestimated their trash usage, which led to a multitude of challenges.

Ms. Briley thanked the task force for having her, and thanked them for their work, and the importance of it.

Ms. Johnson asked if there was any old business to discuss.

Mr. Davis brought up the previous discussion of the need for a glossary of terms.

Ms. Miller asked for clarification about what people are not clear about.

Mr. Davis brought up some examples.

Ms. Johnson brought up that she was the member that brought up the idea of a glossary of terms.

Ms. Johnson asked if there was any old business.

Ms. Johnson moved to continuing to discuss current operational challenges.

Ms. Miller asked about the projected budget and are the current operational costs included.

Ms. Efroymsen asked if current maintenance costs are included.

Mr. Kickel said that sometimes there unbudgeted costs like catastrophic equipment failures.

Ms. Clinkscale brought up that currently due to equipment failures; Mr. Torres' budget is at 100% for the year.

Mr. Kickel also mentioned that you could expect maintenance costs to rise with the current fleet.

Ms. Johnson asked how they are going to fund the remaining repairs for the year.

Ms. Clinkscale said that they are looking at the vehicle maintenance budget and where they could take money from to fund such costs. Additionally, she mentioned that there is a truck that needs a \$20,000 repair, and they are just not going to repair it this year.

Ms. Clinkscale brought up that currently the city is borrowing a truck from the city of Shaker Heights.

Mr. Davis brought up yard waste, and how this needs to be addressed.

Mr. Torres said that we use the same trucks to pick-up yardwaste.

The group discussed challenges associated with Bulk Collection [1:03:20 – 1:21:00]

Ms. Johnson moved the meeting to the public comments.

[Unknown/Unclear] individual on behalf of her daughter that lives on Oak Road commented about bulk collection, and how the City of Shaker Heights allows bulk drop-off four times a year at the service center. The City also has resources for private companies that will charge and take bulk items. Additionally, individual talked about recycling contamination.

Ms. Johnson sought clarification about eliminating curbside recycling for drop off.

Mr. Torres answered question about where yard waste is taken.

Mr. Stan Budin of Shaker Road asked about what happens when recycling is placed in a blue bag, and where does it go. Mr. Budin talked about recycling education and the need to start in school with children.

Mr. Budin asked what happens with materials that are not recyclable.

Mr. Torres answered Mr. Budin's question.

Ms. Miller offered additional clarification.

Ms. Mariann Offtermatt of Cedar Road asked about other private firms with regards to trash and recycling collection, and talked about yard waste collection, the process of setting out yard waste, and the costs.

Ms. Johnson responded to Ms. Offtermatt's concerns and encouraged her to attend additional meetings.

Ms. Clinkscale offered some clarification about why the city hauls recycling to Kimble because it is a part of the recycling consortium.

Ms. Miller offered some additional clarification.

Ms. Cindy Budin of Shaker Road brought up a refrigerator magnet about the recycling rules, and how there needs to be an updated version.

Ms. Johnson agreed, and said education is necessary.

Mr. Budin brought up yard waste being improperly placed.

Mr. Torres responded about how the city enforces yard waste collection policy.

Ms. Johnson thanked the public members for their comments and questions and encouraged the members of the public to notify their neighbors about the task force.

Ms. Johnson asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Miller moved to adjourn.

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any objections.

Ms. Johnson waived the formality of a vote and adjourned the meeting.

