City of Albion

Study Session

January 17, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown opened the study session at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Maurice Barnes (1), Lenn Reid (2), Sonya Brown (3), Marcola Lawler (4) Jeanette Spicer (5), Andrew French (6) and Mayor Brown.

STAFF PRESENT:

Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; John Tracy, Director Building, Code Enforcement and Planning and Jim Lenardson, Director Public Services.

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their

 comments to no more than five (5) minutes. Proper decorum is required).

 The following citizen comments were received:

Marva Powell, 116 W. Pine St asked if the refuse bill would be a separate bill.

*City Manager Mitchell responded the refuse contractor will be responsible for all billing and collection and will be billed quarterly.*

Elrarene Showers, 805 ValHalla, stated she was not in favor of the single hauler and asked if the bill will be raised if the gas rates increase? Will residents be required to pay for leaf service the 4 months of the year it is not being used? Will the solid waste millage decrease? Some residents share garbage service as they don’t have enough trash on a weekly basis. If a rental unit is vacant, will the owner still be responsible for trash service? If a renter moves and leaves a bill, who is responsible for payment of the bill?

Judith Trine, 111 Colfax St stated she feels residents should have freedom of choice no requiring residents to have just one hauler.

Betty Branche, 408 Washington St, asked how rentals will work. ; How was Granger chosen to be the single hauler; what is rear pickup.

Mayor Brown explained the procedure is to hear citizens comments and then during the discussion portion of the agenda to answer citizens questions.

City Attorney Harkness stated the purpose of the Study Session is to determine the terms of the contract with Granger. The Council has already passed acceptance of the RFP for a single hauler contract with Granger.

Mary Norton, 406 Fitch St, stated she feels seniors are being forced to pay for garbage service and is upset that residents were not informed of the intention of going with a single hauler service.

Wayne Arnold, 906 Hall St, stated the Single Hauler contract was passed prior the New Council taking their seats. He feels the residents should have a choice and have been blind-sided. Council Members need to keep residents in their precinct informed.

Elrarene Showers, 805 ValHalla, asked what the protocol was for voiding out the single hauler and does a petition need to be signed.

*Mayor Brown stated the charter does allow for citizen referendum*.

*Council Member Barnes asked for point of order to follow parliamentary procedure moving forward.*

Dennis Tautkus, 416 S. Hannah St., stated he has three lots and creates more than the allotted six (6) bag minimum. Most of the trees in his yard are City trees. What is he expected to do with the additional leaves?

Wayne Arnold, 906 Hall St., asked if the City will no longer be picking up leaves.

*Mayor Brown stated that the City does not have the funds to do leaf pickup any longer.*

Jamie Jones, 1309 E. Michigan, asked if residents will be fined if they do not comply with the single hauler and asked if there is an ordinance pertaining to leaf pickup.

*Council Member Barnes asked for point of order to follow parliamentary procedure moving forward.*

Lavada Weeks, 917 Luther Dr, stated some good points have been made and cost needs to be taken into consideration. She will be paying for leaf pickup which is a service that she will not use.

Randy Burack, 808 N. Superior St., stated he understands the reasoning behind the single hauler and that it will save him some money. He asked about trash service for property owned by the Land Bank; why people are not allowed to split/share their trash and how this will be enforced. He also stated he doesn’t agree with forcing residents to comply with a single hauler service.

Ed Trine, 709 Division, asked how the set-up of the garbage service will work with Grainger; Is Grainger prepared for all residents to call and sign up and he would like to see the citizen questions answered as they come and speak.

IV. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Single Hauler Process

Mayor Brown gave an overview of the Single Hauler process and stated that it came about due to the fact that the City has faced economic hardship and was no longer able to fund the leaf pickup, therefore an alternate was sought that would be beneficial to both the City and residents with the caveat of saving citizens money. The entire City all using the same trash service helps to lower the overall cost. The proposed single hauler service will include weekly trash pickup and yard waste every other week.

Questions/Comments from the Council were as follows:

* The City does have an ordinance that requires residents to have refuse pickup and if you don’t abide-it is a civil infraction.
* The City will be able to provide names and addresses to Granger as these are public records.
* Prices will remain in effect for three years. Contractor will have the opportunity to ask Council for an increase during the three year contract but it would be up to Council to approve.
* The termination clause in the contract states if the company were to go into bankruptcy or receivership; be in any violation of law or if an issue goes unaddressed, the City may terminate contract with 30 days’ notice.
* There is a no automatic renewal provision in the contract.
* Make FAQ’s available to residents
* We currently have information in the weekly newsletter; on the City’s website and downstairs on the counter. We have also posted public notices in the local newspaper.
* Use new app-Next Door to help get information out to residents.
* Citizens have the opportunity to re-engage in local government.
* Council must make decisions that benefit the entire City
* Appreciates residents taking the time to come to the meeting and express their concerns.
* Communication has been and remains an issue.
* Several meetings have been held on the single hauler and diligent efforts have been made to notify residents
* Timeline for RFP is as follows:
* City modified the current refuse ordinance to include single haulers
* RFP’s were sent out.
* Bids were received
* Acceptance of RFP with Granger Services
* We need to proceed with the process or the City may be open to potential litigation
* We currently have a serious dumping problem in the City
* The $100.00 may be too high for residents
* Is it possible to just have trash service and residents would be responsible for their own leaves?
* Residential is considered one (1) or two (2) units. Any more than two would be commercial and would not fall under the single hauler.
* Residents would only be charged for occupied or lived in units. This can be added to contract.
* In case of a duplex, each unit would be charged for service
* Yard waste will be charged only from April to the end of November.
* Front of house service is where they would go to front of home, pickup cart and then return to where they found it. There is no extra charge for this service.
* Would it be possible to extend the leaf pick-up two weeks into December? Grainger will look into this and let the Council know if this is a possibility.
* Will leaf pickup be an option to residents? The rates reflect that all residents will have trash and leaf pickup and the costs are reduced due to strength in numbers.

Comments were received from Council Members French, Reid, Barnes, Lawler, Spicer and Brown, Mayor Brown, City Manager Mitchell, City Attorney Harkness and Shane McCune, Granger Services.

V. CITIZENS COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their

 comments to no more than five (5) minutes. Proper decorum is required).

 No citizen comments were received.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

 Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, to ADJOURN Study Session. (7-0, vv).

Mayor Brown adjourned the Study Session at 7:00 p.m.

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Date Jill Domingo City Clerk