

Monday, April 27, 2015 Anoka City OC Open House Citizen Comments

The following are a summary of the comments made by citizens at the open house. Each paragraph is a separate person commenting:

Townhome association does not want to be part of the city's proposal. Prefers to contract with the hauler of their own choice.

Wants to keep walkup service. Wants choice. Switched for a better price. Said in Anaheim, CA where they previously lived, they have OC and price goes up and service goes down.

An employee of Suburban waste at age 19. No government involvement wanted. It does not work.

Pays \$10.13/mo to \$23.66/mo for street repair according to personal calculations (statement was a little unclear). I save at least \$9.66/mo due to competition. More faith in free market.

Barb Thurston (mom of former mayor Bjorn Skogquist), likes their hauler. Agrees trucks cause some damage, but 20-30 school busses in morning and again in afternoon is the problem. Retired and do not even need once a week service. Likes idea of moving cans to one side of the road and is used to this as a retired mail carrier. Likes choice.

Rex Lewis at Riverpoint, on waste reduction board a few years ago. Only need one truck to pick up city trash.

Douglas Street resident likes current system. Why are we discussing this now? Wants data going back years on open market vs. OC price per mile on street repair, comparisons with other cities.

Jim Nielson owns apartment buildings. Says we are different. Many contracts automatically renew. Leave larger users alone.

Ron by high school says 13 trucks drive by his house and wants only 1 truck. Put cans on one side of the street. Don't want to see haulers lose business and supports a consortium.

815 Benton Street wants trucks reduced, less noise, fuel savings, less street damage, less hazards potential. Only issue is reduced competition and cost increases in future years.

9 homes on the streets and we have 7 trucks driving in one direction and 4 the other way. Noise is unreal. Street damage.

South Street. Can we negotiate? Yard waste doubled in 4 years. No fees on website. Garbage rate has been consistent.

Eliminating past city yard waste option was a bad idea. Didn't do a good job with yard waste, now city wants to add fee on trash bill. We have fees on gas bill and water bill for roads, now on trash bill? You won't negotiate on our best interest. You will want more city fees. Does not want cans on his side of the street. Would he have to shovel a spot in his neighbor's house across the street to put his can? No government involvement.

Happy with service. Have little garbage. Every other week service?

168 Yoho drive, circle drive. Wants less haulers. Set cap on licenses. One hauler if price is good or consortium.

5th Avenue. Now we can switch haulers. Construction trucks beat up road. Water station project wrecked road. Air pollution but big problem is person next door burning stuff all day. Monopolies don't work. One hauler, one price, no switching. Consortium not good. Wants citizen control.

Tom 3003 6th Avenue. Wants good service at a reasonable price. Have County road in front of my house. Price for road repair irrelevant. Skeptical that government can negotiate a better price. Don't trust government officials. Have seen electric, water bills. Can't meet minimum usage requirements on these and pays more. Wants usage tied to cost.

John on Jackson Street. Happy with service. 4 trucks. Hoffman is the problem using street as a shortcut for their semi-trucks. No smoking rules now lead to employees parking across the street from his home and tossing cig butts all over the street. Semi's shake the house. No response from city employees when complaints are made.

Neighbor has tiny trash can. In CA we had LNG vehicles.

Mr. Taylor on Washington Ave. Moved to Anoka before open market, under old single hauler. ACE knocked on door and won my business. Likes service from ACE and likes to be able to challenge them on price. If I lived on dead end street, I would love to organize my block with one hauler. Neighborhood control.

We have an organized system already do we not? Licenses required. Fees paid. Why change? Rebuilt my street that didn't need it. Why our street? Others are much worse. Staff said they wanted 25 year replacement, but my street was still fine after 50 years worth of use with garbage trucks driving on it. Maybe we need more garbage trucks? (laughter in the room)

Moved to city under single hauler. With competition that now exists, I saved hundreds of dollars annually. Was amazing. Astonishing the way competition works.

Bart Ward, 4th Avenue. Supports choice, doesn't like government, but willing to give up choice for the support of roads. Wants OC consortium.

Dave Pierson asked if citizens would be allowed on the committee to negotiate hauler contracts? City administrator said no. Pierson said he would like one truck.

Chris from ACE is right. Nature is the problem with roads. I live on 7th and Main. Semis, concrete trucks are the problem. I live ½ mile from train and freeway. Garbage truck noise? Who cares.

Isn't it illegal to get together and fix prices? DeLaForest answers Yes, allowed by law. Citizen is astonished. Wants competition, says we have a good system in place now.

381 Cooledge street. Was with ACE, Republic got a better price with contract including yard waste. Complained about contract problems with Republic.

City council member Freeburg said he wanted a straw poll. City administrator talked idea down and meeting was adjourned.