

May 26, 2015

Anoka City Council work session

Mayor absent from meeting

Item #1: Organized solid waste collection:

Tim Cruikshank, City Manager:

Chris DeLaForest and others are not available for the meeting today but that doesn't reflect on their belief of the importance of the issue. Vacation and other issues is why they are absent.

The tally is fairly close. Though any information for or against is not scientific.

Councilmember Jeff Weaver: Tim, did you get emails I sent you.

Councilmember Mark Freeburg: (Mayor called and passed along message to Freeburg just prior to the start of the meeting) Mayor is in favor of single hauler. Wants to do what is best, not what is popular. He wants least wear and tear on roads.

Councilmember Mark Freeburg: I was in that same idea. I can go one way or the other. I can go to single hauler or reduce to three. As people sell out and go out of business that we lower to three. We still have competition. Can't leave it at six or door wide open.

Councilmember Steve Schmidt: You want to ultimately end up with three, but not take action today to reduce to three?

Councilmember Mark Freeburg: no as people go out of business, three is the most.

Councilmember Jeff Weaver: I could support that idea. Some want smaller containers, every other week pickup, customizing recycling, don't need every week. We need to have some customized service. That will reduce traffic on its own.

Councilmember Mark Freeburg: Person called and was surprised that they could get extra recycling container. There is room for improvement, can reduce through attrition.

Councilmember Carl Anderson: I could support that. Attrition.

Councilmember Steve Schmidt: I would not want less than every other week.

Councilmember Mark Freeburg: I fill up recycling every two weeks. Look at the big picture.

Tim Cruikshank, City Manager: Limit licenses to three. We have talked about haulers giving options for every other week for seniors and different sized cans. Can I offer other options? Increase license fee? Adjust them upward?

Councilmember Mark Freeburg: up to what? Seasonally? Annually? Everything gets passed onto consumer. Do you want to increase rate to customers? If you need water or sewer, you have to pay for it. If it is needed for roads, then we have to.

Tim Cruikshank, City Manager: How about staff bring back recommendation and rationale. We did hear from a number of folks about organizing blocks.

Councilmember Jeff Weaver and Councilmember Mark Freeburg: perfectly acceptable.

Councilmember Carl Anderson: how will this affect townhome associations?

Tim Cruikshank, City Manager: we wouldn't force anyone out of Anoka. We would still have 7 residential haulers.

Councilmember Mark Freeburg asked audience for comments:

Citizen wants it left as is. Says he pays \$8 a month currently.

Councilmember Steve Schmidt: it could take 20 years for a reduction to happen.

Moved on to next agenda item