

## EARTH ENERGY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES OCTOBER 5, 2009

The Earth Energy Environment Committee meeting was held on October 5, 2009, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m.

Present: Committee: Chair Vince Gentile, Dan Kasaris, Mike Farrell; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz, John Nickell, Don Willey; Administration: Service Director Kris Kamps, Rubbish/Recycling Supervisor Nick Suhodolsky; Other Attendees: Nick Cinquepalmi.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Farrell **to approve the September 8, 2009 Minutes**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0.  
**Motion carried.**

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 1. Recycling Program

Mr. Kamps said he is still working on the bin program and said there are some local merchants that may be interested in moving forward with this project along with the city. He said he has also had responses from residents who are interested in the program and would prefer to purchase the bins themselves rather than having the city purchase the bins.

Mr. Gentile talked about the calendar that will be mailed to residents in December and said he believes it would be helpful to have pictures in the calendar of acceptable recycling materials. Mr. Kamps said there is descriptive material in the calendar related to recycling which he feels will be very educational.

Mr. Farrell said he has talked about the recycling program with many residents and said there are very few residents that will not recycle. He said most residents like the bin program, but their concern is that the bins that they will purchase will be treated like their garbage cans are treated by city workers. He said he told residents that if we do introduce this bin program, he would make sure the Service Department is aware of their concerns. Mr. Kamps said the city will educate the Recycling Crew on how to treat the containers that the residents use. Mr. Gentile said that the Recycling Crew needs to understand that the way they pick up the recyclables will determine if that household will continue to participate in the program. Mr. Kamps said he is working on this perception with his drivers and said the Recycling Crew all have the same uniform, the same jacket and they look presentable on the road. He also said the workers are aware that the residents are our customers.

Mr. Farrell asked where we are with the calendar. Mr. Gentile said Mr. Kamps is working on it and that he is working with someone who is helping with the Council portion and getting nostalgic type information together for the calendar. Mr. Kamps said he has talked with various vendors to help put this calendar together and get it distributed. He said he is hoping it will be mailed to residents in December. Mr. Kasaris asked what the estimated cost is for this calendar. Mr. Kamps said the total cost is currently under \$16,000.

Mr. Gentile said at the last meeting the committee discussed the recycling yard, the hours, 24/7 recycling points in the community and the type of containers that can be used. Mr. Kamps said he does not have the numbers back on the containers yet. He said the Service Department is looking at putting together figures for a new truck this year. He said the unit they are currently using is old and is getting to a point where he does not want to put any more money into it. Mr. Gentile said on the financial end of recycling, we are getting good money for fiber and for cans. He suggested going after these two items to generate some revenue. Mr. Kamps said as the recycling program currently stands, with the changes made on the routes, bins and the white goods, our cost is under \$300,000 annually. Mr. Kamps said we will be under \$500,000 for the year. Mr. Gentile asked about recycling tires. Mr. Kamps said he does not know why we take tires. He said we are one of the few cities that do. Mr. Gentile said he feels we should announce that we are phasing out taking

tires in 2010. Mr. Kamps said if we phase out taking tires we will still have a drive with the county to get rid of tires and other materials. Mr. Kasaris asked how many tires we take in one year. Mr. Suhodolsky said this year it was around 450-500. He said we spent about \$1,300 to dispose of tires this year.

Mr. Kasaris asked Mr. Kamps if the city is looking at placing the large bins at various locations throughout the city. Mr. Kamps said he and Mr. Gentile had discussed different locations, but nothing has been decided. Mr. Kamps said he will have more information on the bins and calendars at the next meeting.

**2. Material Purchases.**

Mr. Gentile said that last month the committee touched on the fact that we try to encourage residents to recycle, but as a government, we do not do anything to help put pressure on the recycling stream that promotes recycling. He suggested that the city require all purchases to have a certain amount of recyclable content in them. Mr. Gentile said there is always the issue of cost prohibitive, but said if we do this by legislation we can always build a stop gap into the legislation. Mr. Kasaris asked how we would state something is cost prohibitive. Mr. Farrell said it is based on new product value. Mr. Gentile said he will work on an outline for this program and present it at the next meeting. Mr. Farrell asked if he feels this is something we might be able to get on the table before the close of the year. Mr. Gentile said possibly. Mr. Kamps said as far as paper is concerned, he feels that we can save a considerable amount of money. Mr. Kamps said that all departments in the city are purchasing paper, but they are not purchasing it at the same time which means we are not taking advantage of purchasing in bulk. Mr. Farrell suggested having a central purchasing agent. Mr. Farrell said the amount of paper being used by each department needs to be discussed with the administration. Mr. Farrell said central purchasing should save the city 15-20 percent on paper alone. Mr. Farrell said he does not believe we will need to hire someone new for this position, he feels this task can be delegated to someone.

Mr. Farrell said he would like to place this item on the next Finance Committee agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. No New Business.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Kasaris to **adjourn the meeting**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.