

EARTH ENERGY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES NOVEMBER 2, 2009

The Earth Energy Environment Committee meeting was held on November 2, 2009, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

Present: Committee: Chair Vince Gentile, Dan Kasaris, Mike Farrell; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz, Gary Petrusky; Administration: Service Director Kris Kamps, Rubbish/Recycling Supervisor Nick Suhodolsky; Other Attendees: Don Harris, Pat Harris, Anne Reinkober.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Farrell **to approve the October 5, 2009 Minutes**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0.
Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Recycling Program

Mr. Kamps said the Service Department is looking at different types of containers that will accommodate the city as far as picking up recyclables at various locations. He said the problem they have run into is the containers that are currently at the schools and other locations are a front arm, over the top dumper set up. He said in order to get a container with a sealed top that is weather tight where the product goes in the front, we would need that type of a vehicle. He said Mr. Suhodolsky has been trying to get prices on different containers, possibly the kind we presently have which are not water tight as well as smaller units that we may be able to use on our lift gate truck. Mr. Suhodolsky said a lot of the containers are made for a front loader but he is looking for something that has a rear loader with a dumpster or a winch type set up on it.

Mr. Gentile said if we are going to consider 24/7 recycling points, this may be a nice, low cost way to see if we will get the participation we are hoping for. He said if this program is successful, at some point we would have to purchase a vehicle that can be used to pick up the recyclables and pack them in that vehicle to take to the vendor. Mr. Farrell asked if there is any way we can place an attachment on the truck we are currently using for recyclables. Mr. Kamps said the trucks they currently use load on the side and are designed for a hand load. He said there is no way to put an attachment on the vehicle. Mr. Kamps said it dumps into the top of the truck then inside there are compartments which dump out separately from underneath. Mr. Kamps said the trash containers that we have around town are picked up by the Service Department trucks which are six yard dumper trucks, but those trucks are just for refuse, there is no separation with this type of pick up. Mr. Farrell asked what the condition is of the two recycle trucks we currently have. Mr. Kamps said both of these trucks were purchased at the same time and are in good shape. He said one was just painted and they are hoping to paint the other one soon. Mr. Kamps said we purchased these trucks through a municipal lease.

Mr. Antoskiewicz asked committee members if they feel that we will increase our recycling participation by placing service containers in various locations throughout the city. Mr. Kamps said he believes this will increase the number of participants in the recycling program. He said some people do not participate at the curb, but may participate if there are containers available to them twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if we would be able to place these containers at apartment buildings considering most apartment complexes contract with companies that already pick up the garbage as well as recyclable items. Mr. Kamps said most apartment complexes are under contract for all of their garbage. Mr. Gentile said if we decide to do this, he feels we should set up bins for fiber and metal and skip plastic and glass for the time being. He said if residents want to do plastic and glass, they can take that to the Service Center on Saturdays. Mr. Farrell asked Mr. Kamps what size container he would recommend. Mr. Kamps said he would recommend a 55 gallon container. Mr. Gentile asked Mr. Kamps if we ever got to a larger self-serve point and we were able to get into a larger container, what type of truck he would need. Mr. Kamps said there are many different types of conveyance vehicles available. Mr. Kamps said the nice thing about the hook truck is that it is versatile and any body type would be able to fit on the truck.

Mr. Farrell asked how many containers we want to place in the city. Mr. Kamps said 10. Mr. Gentile asked if we would place a container outside the fence of the Service Center. Mr. Farrell said since we will be unable to place containers on apartment complex property, he feels if we place them in convenient locations throughout the city it will be convenient for residents who live in apartment complexes to recycle. Mr. Farrell asked how we will secure these containers. Mr. Kamps said we will have to bolt them to the ground. Mr. Farrell suggested that the committee help determine where these containers should be placed and email those locations to Mr. Kamps. Mr. Gentile said the biggest thing we will have to look at is accessibility, lighting and central locations.

Mr. Kamps said Mr. Suhodolsky has some information on florescent lighting containers. He said the Service Department receives a lot of calls regarding how to recycle these containers. Mr. Suhodolsky said for a number of years the county handled these containers in their hazardous waste drives, but we no longer accept these tubes from residents for recycling by the county. Mr. Suhodolsky said the county is looking at building a recycling center drop off location for residents where they would be able to take this type of item.

Mr. Gentile asked where we are with purchasing recycling containers/bins. Mr. Kamps said we have not done anything further with the bins since we do not yet know where we will be financially in 2010. He said he has talked to Mayor Stefanik about this and the Mayor has talked to several vendors about working with the city to sell these containers. Mr. Gentile asked if we could sell these containers at the Service Center in the lobby during normal business hours. Mr. Kamps said he would prefer not to get into the retail business at the Service Center. He would rather offer the sale of these containers to various businesses in town. Mr. Farrell said he would like to see this program implemented sometime next year. He feels that since not every resident will participate, we should have these containers available for sale at various locations so those who do wish to participate can purchase them.

Mr. Gentile said the recycling program will be advertised in the calendar that the city will be sending out in December. He said we are going to purchase the first set of bins then the money that comes in will pay that back and purchase additional bins. Mr. Kamps said that the price we originally received was based on 40,000 units, but that company came back and offered us a price of \$5.97 per container based on purchasing 1,000 units.

Mr. Farrell asked if we are on schedule with the calendar. Mr. Gentile said he sent the Council information to Mr. Kamps. Mr. Kamps said everything is moving forward.

2. Material Purchases.

Mr. Gentile said that at the last meeting we touched on this subject and Mr. Kamps added another dimension which is developing a Central Purchasing Office. He said Mayor Stefanik is in support of this program and we are hoping to have this fully implemented starting with office supplies in 2010. This is currently being discussed in the Finance Committee as well.

Mr. Gentile said that we also talked about material purchases as they relate to recycled content. He said there is a whole industry out there called LEED (Lead in Energy and Environmental Design). He said as an example every school in the State of Ohio has to be at least Silver LEED if they accept state funding. Mr. Kasaris asked what Silver LEED means. He said it has to do with the carbon footprint and the content of sustainable recycled products that are used in construction. He said you get points and have to maintain a certain amount of points to get your LEED rating. He said this is a new program and the federal government is involved in this program. He said all new federal facilities are built with some level of LEED. Mr. Gentile said we need to decide as a government if we are going to place a demand on the recycling stream by mandating, requiring or encouraging that the products we purchase have a certain amount of recyclable material. Mr. Farrell said the recycle program needs to be lead by example and said it needs to start with the federal government. He said what we need to do as a community is set an example for residents to follow.

Mr. Gentile said November 15th is National Recycling Day. He said we need to do something to begin phasing in purchasing recycled materials. He suggested adopting some type of legislation that would have the city in certain instances purchase materials that have a percentage of recycled content in them without placing a financial burden on the city. Mr. Antoskiewicz said he would prefer to look at each individual project separately and determine whether or not we can afford to purchase materials with recycled content rather than tell people that they have to use materials with recycled content. Mr. Farrell suggested stepping into this program by listing some items that are purchased and look at those items to see if we can now purchase them with some recycled content in them. He said this way we are trying to get participation across the board. Mr. Antoskiewicz said he agrees that we need to start out slowly, but does not feel that passing legislation on this topic would be starting out slowly. Mr. Farrell said there are ways to pass legislation to promote this without forcing this on residents. Mr. Gentile said he feels without some type of legislation, we will never be able to promote this program outside of the city borders. He said we can do a resolution that encourages this type of purchase but does not mandate it. Mr. Farrell said he feels we should implement this type of program to get it going, prove the program then legislate it. Mr. Farrell said after it is a proven program, we will then have something to take out to other communities. He said we should choose several items and have each department see if those items can be purchased with some percentage of recycled content. He said this will help determine how the legislation should be written as far as the percentage of recycled content that should be mandated.

Mr. Gentile said he still feels we need to draft some type of resolution. He said once it is adopted, we will send it to Council offices in the area to see if they will join us in passing this resolution in their community.

Mr. Gentile discussed possible language that will be included in this resolution. Mr. Kasaris asked if we are going to list the goods and what we will consider cost prohibitive. Mr. Gentile said each department will have to determine what they feel is cost prohibitive. Mr. Kasaris asked what happens if they do not try to get materials with recycled content. Mr. Antoskiewicz said Council can monitor these expenses since we see all of the bills. He said they will have to present a quote for recycled materials. Mr. Gentile said when we implement this program we can encourage a percentage preference for recycled content.

Mr. Gentile said he will draft a resolution and email it to the committee for their review. He said any thoughts can be sent to Mrs. Haller and hopefully we can get this adopted before the end of the month. He said once this is adopted, we can send this to the county and see if they will join us.

NEW BUSINESS

1. No New Business.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.