

MINUTES OF THE
COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

September 29, 1987
5:00 p.m. - Room 330

Committee Members Present: Councilors Jim Gardner, Tom DeJardin,
Gary Hansen, Sharron Kelley and Corky
Kirkpatrick

Other Councilors Present: Councilors George Van Bergen and
Richard Waker

Chairman Gardner called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Discussion of the Request for Bids for Out-of-Region Landfill
Services

Before discussing the landfill services bid document, Committee members questioned Mr. Owings about discussions between Metro and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) concerning the Bacona Road landfill siting process. Committee members were concerned about costs related to continued studies on the Bacona Road site if an Eastern Oregon site would eventually be selected. Members acknowledged, however, the importance of keeping siting options open until the process was completed.

Rich Owings, Solid Waste Director, reviewed a written summary of the landfill bid document. He first explained six disposal options proposed by staff to which bidders would be asked to respond. The options would be compared with composting and energy recovery on a total system cost basis.

Councilor Kirkpatrick requested staff add a seventh option of no composting but burning.

Presiding Officer Waker questioned staff's assumption of three regional transfer stations. He thought other options, such as a strategically placed reload facility, should be explored if waste was transported to Eastern Oregon. Mr. Owings explained options needed to be defined as part of the current functional planning process.

The Committee received testimony from landfill operators regarding the draft bid document.

Wayne Trehitt, representing Wastech Inc., submitted a letter from Wastech's Executive Vice President, Merle L. Irvine, to Councilor Gardner dated September 29, 1987, listing the company's questions and concerns with the proposed bidding process. Mr. Trehitt questioned staff's 4 percent inflation assumption, noting a wrong assumption could result in greatly increased operating costs over

the 20-year contract period required by Metro. A five-year period would be more reasonable, he said. Mr. Trewhitt thought the contract clause requiring separation of Metro's waste from other disposers would be expensive and difficult to monitor. Finally, he questioned whether bidders could obtain a performance bond covering them for the liability period proposed by Metro.

A discussion followed about the contract's clause requiring no waste be mixed with waste deposited by Metro. Mr. Trewhitt proposed if Metro wanted the landfill owner to bear the first line of liability, the owner had to have more control over materials disposed. He also questioned whether the "no mixing" policy could be administered in compliance with DEQ's landfill closure requirements.

Bob Hurley, representing Environmental Waste Systems, agreed with Mr. Trewhitt's comments. He also urged Metro to request bids on a "per ton" basis because it was a standard industry measurement unit. To require otherwise would result in bids being difficult to evaluate. Mr. Hurley also proposed staff identify the site or sites as privately and publically owned and operated. He agreed with Councilor Kirkpatrick that staff should add a seventh assumption of no composting and burning. Finally, Mr. Hurley thought bidders could experience bonding problems if Metro's requirements were unrealistic.

In response to Mr. Hurley's and Mr. Trewhitt's concerns, staff explained how bids could be evaluated on a life cycle and component basis rather than a cost per ton basis.

Mr. Trewhitt commented that instead of a 5 percent retainer, a trust fund be established that would be administered by an independent body.

Ted Stanwood, representing the Alternatives to Burning Committee, advised requesting bids on a cost per ton basis for easier cost analysis.

Jim Benedict, representing Rick Daniels of Waste Management, said he would submit written comments on staff's proposed bid document at a later date. He agreed with the earlier testimony of Mr. Trewhitt and Mr. Hurley. He requested a ceiling be placed on the Consumer Price Index assumptions; the landfill site be large enough to segregate waste at a low cost; and bidders be allowed to propose alternative ways of addressing liability problems.

Merle Irvine, representing Wastech Inc., explained because the landfill operator had first line responsibility and liability, it was important the operator be allowed to screen material before it was loaded and transported to the site. He explained that if

Wastech were not allowed to use their loading facility in North Portland, additional costs would have to be assumed by Metro. Mr. Irvine's specific concerns were listed in a letter to Councilor Gardner dated September 29, 1987.

Michael L. Smith, representing Pacific Inland Navigation, said the question of Metro's authority of the control of solid waste had to be resolved as soon as possible. Chairman Gardner said it was clear Metro had flow control powers although that authority had not yet been challenged in the courts.

Mr. Owings said staff would consider the comments received at this meeting and would meet with bidders next week to discuss the project. Staff had targeted October 8 as the day for sending out the bid document to prospective vendors.

2. Report on the Resource Recovery Project Health Impact Committee

Don Rocks, Executive Assistant, reported on the status of the Health Impact Review Panel, established by the Council via the adoption of Resolution No. 87-809 on September 22, 1987. He then circulated a draft document entitled "Formation of Health Impact Review Panel" which outlined the background, structure, charge, staff support, and time frame for the Panel's work. Executive Officer Cusma proposed contracting a staff person to organize the Panel's work and produce the final report document which would be readable by the lay public, he explained.

In response to Councilor Hansen's question, Mr. Rocks said a similar report previously prepared on the now defunct Oregon City mass incineration project would be made available to the Review Panel and staff.

Mr. Rocks reported that names for potential panelists and staff were being received and a recommendation on same would be made to the Council in about two weeks.

Councilor Kirkpatrick requested staff review Resolution No. 87-809 to determine whether it was clear the panel's final report should be available to the Council, staff and public before a final decision was made regarding alternative technology. If that sequence was not clearly defined in the Resolution, she requested staff prepare an amendment to the Resolution for future consideration. Chairman Gardner requested it be part of the Council's meeting record that the Health Impact Review Panel would prepare a report on the "environmental health impacts" of a resource recovery project. It should not be construed that the panel would conduct a formal environmental impact statement.

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3. Other Business

Councilor Hansen requested staff present status reports on the Solid Waste Reduction Program and the rate review process for the October 6, 1987, Solid Waste Committee meeting. Other members concurred with this request.

There being no further business, Chairman Gardner adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



A. Marie Nelson
Clerk of the Council

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